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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 12 Mar

LD1203071894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0708 GMT 12 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS— Moscow newspapers focus their attention today on the Thursday meeting between President Yeltsin and representatives of political parties, parliamentary groups and public movements. The president's appeal for civil peace and accord was the keynote of the meeting.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an article by Mikhail Mityukov, deputy chairman of the State Duma, who stresses that "the civil peace agreement would be a response to the demand of society... I am sure the civil peace agreement, which the president proposed to sign, has good prospects. To oppose it, to refuse to take part in the memorandum on accord would mean to demonstrate political ambitions, which are far from the real interests of the nation."

In the opinion of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, "civil peace and harmony are a vital necessity. They will give Russia the last chance today." The newspaper stresses that "civil peace is especially important for the army. It would be a kind of a guarantee from the temptation to settle political problems by non-political means."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI publishes an interview with Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho in connection with the official visit of Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, which began on Friday. In the opinion of Aho, "the time for cardinal decisions" has come in Russian-Finnish relations. He stressed, among other things, that the Finnish side is "especially interested in problems, connected with trade and economic cooperation."

Commenting on the murder of Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan Moyonsho Nazarshoyev on March 11 in Dushanbe, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that "the murder was hardly politically motivated. It was hardly the doing of 'Islamic fundamentalists', as the authorities want to present it. Most probably, it was another one in a long chain of murders of high-ranking officials, organised by some armed group made up of former members of the Popular Front."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Vasiliy Vorobyov, head of the main department of military budget and financing at the Russian Defence Ministry. He criticised the policy of the Russian Ministry of Finance, which reduced by 2.4 times in 1994 budget allocations for the Defence Ministry. In the opinion of Vorobyov, "the Ministry of Finance is approaching the problem of the reduction of military spendings in a purely abstract way. It does not take into consideration the real situation and the tasks that the Russian Army and Navy have to fulfil in connection with troop withdrawal, the creation of proper conditions for the Army personnel in new areas of deployment and peace-keeping missions in the hotbeds of tension."

TRUD and RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA write about a new wave of the strike movement in the Rostov region, southern Russia, and in the southern Urals because the government fails to keep the promises, given to the miners, on the timely payment of wages to them.

Commenting on the resolution of the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Court on the resumption of the State Emergency Committee trial, PRAVDA writes that the continuation of the trial will be a farce and that, in the long run, the defendants will be acquitted.

Kozyrev Arrives in Israel, Discusses Peace Initiative

LD1103162694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1452 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Tel Aviv, 11 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on his arrival in Tel Aviv today told journalists at Ben Gurion international airport that the aim of his mission in Israel and later in Tunis was to promote the resumption of the peace talks beteen Israel and the Palestinians. He said that Russia supports the demand made by the Palestine Liberation Organization for the deployment of international forces on the occupied territories as a condition for the continuation of the talks after the mass murder of Palestinins by a Jewish settler at al-Khalil [Hebron] mosque on 25 February. Explaining the reasons for this position, the head of the Russian foreign policy department said that "we must also provide additional security, and we support an international presence" in these regions.

Regarding the development of the peace process in the Near East A. Kozyrev stressed the need for further progress toward a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict with a view to "making an attempt to stick the separate pieces together into a single whole and not allow negative points to prevail."

Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who welcomed Kozyrev at the airport, stated: "We shall be pleased to listen to what Kozyrev has to say in support of our proposals. However, the ideas that we have already heard from Russia will not in our opinion help to advance the peace process."

In this connection, local political circles are noting in particular that Yitzhak Rabin, the head of Israel's Government, had on the previous day, on 10 March, rejected Russia's initiative on convening the Madrid peace conference on the Near East anew for the purpose of unblocking the Arab-Israeli talks and had also expressed his emphatic opposition to the deployment of international peacekeeping forces in the occupied territories.

The head of Russia's foreign department will today hold talks with his counterpart Shi'mon Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and will then leave for Tunis where he will have a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

Kozyrev Satisified With Talks

LD1103182594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1740 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv, 11 Mar—[Passage omitted] In a conversation with the ITAR-TASS correspondent, [Russian Foreign Minister] A. Kozyrev expressed his satisfaction with the exchange of opinions he had with Israeli leaders. He also noted that Russia is making unorthodox efforts for the sake of saving the peace process in this region. He said that after the Hebron tragedy, events in the Middle East took a dramatic turn and it was necessary to take extraordinary measures for saving the agreements reached between Israel and PLO earlier. This visit, which is aimed at persuading the Israelis and the Palestinians to return to negotiations table, was one of such measures.

Tonight, the Russian foreign minister departed for Tunis where he will have talks with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Kozyrev Arrives in Tunis for Talks With PLO

LD1103214394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2028 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Yelistratov]

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived this evening in Tunis on a working visit. The Palestine Liberation Organization is headquartered in the Tunisian capital. The Russian foreign minister will hold talks with the Palestinian leadership, in particular he will meet Yasir 'Arafat and will pass to him a personal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The main goal of the visit is to assist in bringing together the stances of the PLO and Israel and to achieve a compromise with regard to resuming the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as soon as possible. This dialogue was frozen two weeks ago after a Jewish settler opened fire on Arabs during worship at a mosque in al-Khalil on the occupied West Bank.

The MENA news agency reports that Andrey Kozyrev intends to set out Russia's viewpoint to the PLO on the current stage of the Middle East peace process, which is above all the need to implement the PLO-Israeli agreement on self-government for Palestinians in the Gaza strip and the Jericho area.

The Russian foreign affairs head and the PLO Executive Committee chairman are expected to begin their talks within the next few hours. Also, during his stay in Tunis, Andrey Kozyrev is expected to be received by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The Russian minister arrived in Tunis from Israel, where today he held a series of intensive consultations with his opposite number Shim'on Peres and met Jewish Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Kozyrev Meets With 'Arafat

LD1203074094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0640 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Rabat, 12 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—"Yasir 'Arafat has confirmed the firm adherence of the Palestinian Liberation Organization to the peace process and has stressed that the PLO is committed to resuming the talks" with Israel, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev has reported. He made the statement in Tunis on the results of the meeting with the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. During the meeting Yasir 'Arafat was handed a personal message from Russian Federation [RF] President Boris Yeltsin. Kozyrev pointed out that the decision of the Palestinian side demanded great political courage on the part of the PLO and of Y. 'Arafat personally.

The Palestinian leadership is counting on the swift and complete carrying out of the resolution, the draft of which was drawn up at the UN Security Council in connection with the massacre at El-Khalil, the head of the RF foreign political department noted. The PLO is hoping that Russia and the United States as co-founders of the Arab-Israeli peace talks will guarantee the implementation of this document.

In the opinion of the Russian minister, the priority task at the present time is the fastest possible implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the Gaza sector and Jericho, which was signed in Washington in September last year. Russia, stressed A. Kozyrev, will promote the implementation of the provisions of this agreement and the UN Security Council resolution as far as possible, "which everyone is expecting".

The Russian side is also in favor of the resumption of the talks between all the Arab states and Israel for the purpose of acceleratingn progress towards an agreement in all the directions of the dialogue, Kozyrev stated. He said that he intended to discuss the question of the role of the co-founders of the Near East peace process at the forthcoming stage during the meeting which is soon to take place with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Vladivostok.

Kozyrev Reports Israel, PLO To Resume Talks

LD1203204094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1845 GMT 12 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Golyayev]

[Text] Rome March 12 TASS—Israel and the PLO have made a political decision—they will resume negotiations. However, this decision is directly linked to the adoption of a U.N. resolution on the el-Khalil tragedy, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said upon the completion of his working visit to the Middle East.

The minister was to make a brief stopover in Rome last night, but did not do so on weather conditions. His plane made a short landing in Genoa.

According to the reports of ANSA news agency, the minister summed up the first results of his Israeli visit, where he had a series of intensive consultations with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and the Tunisian visit, where he met PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat.

In the opinion of Kozyrev, Israel and the PLO "showed an example of political responsibility and courage by deciding to resume the dialogue". It is necessary that the U.N. Security Council shows the same responsibility and adopts a resolution to denounce the events in el-Khalil in the immediate future, said Kozyrev.

If the political aspect of the problem is settled, there will only technical details left. "So, the sooner the Security Council adopts the resolution the better," he said.

As for the place and date of resumed negotiations and the level of delegations, they will be fixed by the interested sides. "We will accept any their decision to the effect and if requested are ready to offer assistance," said the Russian foreign minister.

Kozyrev described as "very inspiring" the Israeli-PLO decision and said "it was more dramatic for Yasir 'Arafat". As for Kozyrev's negotiations with the PLO leader, they "were sincere and constructive".

Kozyrev said he plans to meet U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher in Vladivostok on his way to Russia from China in order to discuss "their possible assistance to the Mideast negotiations at the current stage as the process co-sponsors".

President's Envoy, 'Arafat Continue Tunis Talks

LD1403094294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0857 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Rabat March 14 TASS—Russian president's envoy in the Middle East, Viktor Posuvalyuk, had a third consecutive meeting with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis on Sunday [13 March] night.

The Russian envoy was reported to deliver an important message from Moscow addressed to the PLO leader and related to Russo-Palestinian consultations held in connection with the aggravation of the situation in the Middle East following the Al-Khalil [Hebron] massacre.

During the talks the sides discussed problems pertaining to a resolution expected to be adopted by the U.N. Security Council to ensure measures of international defence of Palestinians on Israeli occupied territories.

The PLO leader is expected to visit Moscow at the invitation of the Russian president on April 9. Palestinian sources say that the sides would thoroughly discuss issues of the development of bilateral relations and Russia's role in the process of establishing Palestinian self-rule in Gaza Strip and the town of Jericho.

'Arafat Accepts Invitation to Moscow

LD1403113094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has accepted the Russian president's invitation to visit Moscow to discuss the Near East settlement. The visit is planned for 19 April.

Editorial Pessimistic on Kozyrev's Middle East Trip

PM1103204594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Mar 94 p 3

[Konstantin Eggert report: "Visit To Near East Could Not Be Kept Secret"]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev's lightning trip to Tunisia and Israel, which was announced out of the blue, is an event which ought not to be underestimated in terms of significance. For the first time in a long while the general public will finally get the chance to find out whether the new Russia has a new policy in the Near East, and if so what it is.

However, on the subject of the public, there was no intention of actually informing it: The visit was planned as secret. A Foreign Ministry staffer literally flew into a rage when he learned that information about it had nevertheless been leaked to news agencies. Sanctions followed immediately—press representatives were deprived of the chance to accompany the minister.

All the signs of preparations for a major step in the Near East sphere have been visible of late: To begin with, First Deputy Minister Igor Ivanov visited Tunisia and Israel, and then Viktor Posuvalyuk, leader of the Near East and North Africa Department, held talks with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis itself. In Moscow Ivanov unveiled a plan for staging a new international forum for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict, intended to develop the principles agreed at the Madrid Conference in 1991.

This idea was greeted without particular enthusiasm by Washington and Tel Aviv. Among other things, the Israelis are noticeably concerned about the clear linkage between the upsurge in diplomatic activity on the part of Moscow and the tragedy in Hebron, which prompted increased sympathies for the Palestinians. Yitzhaq Rabin's government fears that, while promising to bring 'Arafat back to the negotiating table, Russia will try to win certain concessions for the PLO, striving to win back the authority in the Arab East which was lost in the years of rapprochement with the West.

There is no doubt that Andrey Kozyrev will get a warm reception in Tunis, site of PLO headquarters: The Palestinians are still nurturing illusions, hoping for a resurrection of Russia's regional role as a counterbalance to American influence. By contrast, the discussion in Tel Aviv promises to be difficult—the degree of distrust in Israel toward Moscow, for decades the main sponsor of Arab dictators, is very great. Given all this, it is hard to imagine that Kozyrev's mission can culminate in any significant results.

Kozyrev Views U.S. Relations, Bosnia, Middle East

LD1303222994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2030 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Andrey Kozyrev, the head of Russian diplomacy, has spoken in favor of strategic partnership between Russian and the United States at a news conference held at Vnukovo airport prior to his departure for Vladivostok to meet his U.S. counterpart Warren Christopher.

Answering questions about the Ames' affair and also about the events linked to the visit of Former U.S. President Richard Nixon to Moscow, the Russian foreign minister expressed an opinion that there were certain circles both in the United States and Russia that did not like the idea of cooperation between Russia and the United States, especially strategic cooperation.

A. Kozyrev added that Russian-U.S. relations will continue to be based on the principles stated in the Moscow Declaration. This partnership is strategic and mature and its main features are community of interests and close contacts.

Commenting on the situation in former Yugoslavia at the request of journalists, the Russian foreign minister noted that the decisions of the Security Council envisaged the use of force in extreme cases. He explained that this refers, for example, to attacks on peacekeeping formations. We adhere to this principle, Kozyrev said. The Russian peacekeepers, he stressed, should not be hostages to the tension in the region.

Analyzing the prospects for a settlement in the Near East following his trip to the region, the leader of Russian diplomacy pointed out that at present one of the main aims is to complete the talks on the Gaza sector and Jericho. Only after that will it be possible, in his opinion, to convene a new Madrid Conference in one form or another.

Speaking of his planned short visit to Tajikistan after his Vladivostok meeting, Kozyrev pointed out that such a trip presents a good opportunity to hold talks both with the government and the opposition. He said he would try to visit the Tajik-Afghan frontier in order to support Russian border guards. The minister said in the extreme case we are prepared for a rebuff, but our choice is dialogue, which should begin shortly.

Commenting upon the reports on the possible use of Western countries' peacekeeping forces in Georgia, the minister said that he did not yet see a real opportunity for that. He said that this question might be one of the topics discussed in Vladivostok.

Denies Cooling in U.S. Relations

LD1403092194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] To develop partnership on a new basis—this is how Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has described the aim of his working meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which is to be held in Vladivostok today.

Before leaving Moscow the Russian foreign minister stressed there could be no question of partnership between senior and junior; partners must move toward the same goals. There cannot be more freedom for one to the detriment of the other. In any case, it must be a bilateral approach, Kozyrev noted.

He rejected suppositions that relations have begun to cool between the United States and Russia. There can be differences of interests within the partnership sphere, the minister noted.

Christopher, Kozyrev Hold Talks in Vladivostok

LD1403095394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0920 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Vladivostok March 14 TASS —A U.S. Air Force transport airplane with U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher on board, has landed in Vladivostok. It arrived from Beijing.

Warren Christopher was welcomed on the tarmac by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Maritime Territory administration head Yevgeniy Nazdratenko and U.S. Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering.

Talks between Kozyrev and Christopher began in the airport building directly after the welcoming ceremony. The two-hour talks are expected to cover an extensive range of political, economic and other problems.

After the talks Kozyrev and Christopher are expected to hold a 10-minute press-conference for Russian and foreign journalists who have arrived in Vladivostok to cover the event.

Kozyrev Holds News Conference on Talks

LD1403151694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1436 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Leonid Vinogradov and Andrey Shitov]

[Text] Vladivostok March 14 TASS—Russia and America acted as equal partners at the talks in Vladivostok and discussed many aspects of international relations. The two countries agreed to team up and work together on the problem of nuclear non-proliferation. The announcement was made at a news conference after the talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Vladivostok on Monday.

"We are partners and will continue to work in this direction," Kozyrev said. Christopher said that despite the age difference he and Kozyrev are doing one work.

Speaking about Bosnia, both diplomats expressed satisfaction with the achieved results, including the compromise between the warring factions.

Also discussed was the possibility of transforming G-7 into G-8.

Kozyrev and Christopher said that relations between the two countries have passed the test of strength lately. They did not discuss the spy scandal involving a high-ranking CIA official, James Aldrich.

Concerning the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states, Kozyrev said Russia stands for their soonest possible pullout and has nothing to do with the attempts of the Baltic republics to deport the Russian troops. He said Russia will take part in COCOM.

Asked about the situation in the Sea of Okhotsk, the Russian foreign minister said that Russia calls for the preservation of fish resources in the sea. There has been understanding on the part of the United States. In the future both countries plan to discuss this issue, he said.

After the talks, Christopher left for the U.S. Kozyrev flew to Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, to attend a meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and representatives of Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.

The participants are expected to be received by Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov. During the visit to Tajikistan, Kozyrev will take a trip to the Tajik-Afghan border.

Kozyrev Advocates Strong Navy

LD1403125194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1148 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Chytov]

[Text] Vladivostok March 14 TASS—"A strong Russia needs a strong navy," Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev said when visiting big anti-submarine ship Admiral Panteleyev here today.

The visit, which preceded Kozyrev's talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, was seen by many as having a special symbolic overtone. "We did not plan for it," the Russian minister told ITAR-TASS. "But it is indicative that the ship was part of the multinational force which sailed to the Persian Gulf to train interaction with U.S. naval ships".

According to first deputy commander of the Pacific Fleet Vice-Admiral Igor Khmelnov, the joint exercises confirmed that the Russian combat equipment and the combat training of the Russian sailors are in no way worse than those of the United States.

Andrey Kozyrev said the ships under the Russian flag in the Gulf were a factor of stability in the region. He called upon the sailors to prepare for a new mission, probably in the Latin American direction among others.

"Our presence in the world ocean must expand, the Russian minister stressed, "our partners will respect us all the more for this".

The ship's crew members told the minister with satisfaction that unlike the Black Sea Fleet, the Pacific Fleet is not threatened with a rift.

"We can speak about the division of the Black Sea Fleet only in a conventional manner. Under the well-known agreement reached in Masandra, the fleet must be united". He called on the sailors to upgrade their training and advised "to pay less attention to the political races".

"We have our president, we have our Constitution, and we have a firm political course", the Russian foreign minister said. "The great Russian power existed, exists and will exist".

Kozyrev Departs for Tajikistan

LD1403145794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1428 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Vladivostok, 14 Mar—After his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher today, Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left Vladivostok for Tajikistan. Kozyrev told journalists before leaving by air that a meeting of foreign ministers of Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, and also representatives of Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan will take place in Dushanbe on Tuesday. Emomali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Tajikistani Supreme Soviet, will receive the participants in the meeting.

Russia's foreign minister is also scheduled to make a trip to the Tajik-Afghan border.

Christopher Departs After 'Successful' Talks

LD1403144294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1401 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Vladivostok, 14 Mar—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher left Vladivostok for home today following negotiations with Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev.

Before leaving by air, Warren Christopher told journalists that the talks were successful. Accord had been reached on a wide range of issues. Now it is up to both countries to exert efforts to fulfill them.

'Crisis' in Russian-U.S. Ties Examined

PM1103203794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Mar 94 p 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "Relations Between Russia and the United States Are Experiencing the Most Serious Crisis of Recent Years. Kozyrev and Christopher Face Difficult Conversation in Vladivostok"]

[Text] The Vladivostok meeting between the Russian foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state scheduled for 14 March comes at a time of coolness in relations between Moscow and Washington, which not so long ago appeared cloudless.

There are several reasons for this. The first is the December elections, which brought victory for the national-communists and reminded the Americans that unpredictable Russia remains a potential enemy of the West and a threat to security in the world. Second, Washington cannot fail to be concerned by the changes which have appeared of late in Kremlin policy: the proclamation of the former USSR republics to be a zone of Russia's special interests, the unwillingness to withdraw troops from Latvia and Estonia, and resolute support for the Bosnian Serbs. "After defeat at the elections, the Russian authorities decided to adopt the opposition's slogans. For a while it has been difficult to determine to whom certain remarks in the sphere of foreign policy should be attributed—Kozyrev or Zyuganov," a Western diplomat accredited in Moscow noted.

The third factor provoking the crisis between Russia and the United States is the success of Russian diplomacy in the Balkans. Having secured concessions from the Serbs and thereby averted military action by NATO, Moscow has proclaimed its status as a great power with whose opinion the West has to contend. The situation in Bosnia will be one of the main questions on the agenda of the Vladivostok meeting. "If Moscow and Washington manage to work out a joint stance, substantial progress can be expected over a Bosnian settlement given the influence which we have over the Serbs and which the Americans have over the Croats and the Muslims," a Russian diplomat dealing with the Balkans believes.

The subject of the Arab-Israeli conflict will probably arise in Vladivostok too. Kozyrev's sensational visit to Tunisia and Israel testifies to the seriousness of Russian diplomacy's intentions in the Near East. For two years everybody forgot that the Madrid conference on a Near East settlement had another cochairman apart from the United States—Russia. Washington has borne the full burden of mediation between the Jews and the Arabs, and suddenly—like a bolt from the blue—Moscow comes forward with the unexpected idea of holding a new peace conference.

To all appearances, Christopher will use the meeting with his Russian colleague to make it clear to him that the United States will tolerate the revival of Moscow's old ambitions on the territory of the former USSR and even, to a certain extent, in the Balkans, but it by no means follows from this that it is prepared to accept a return by the Kremlin to its traditional role of defending the Arabs and fighting against Zionism in a region which Washington considers to be a zone of its own vital interests.

The participants in the Vladivostok talks will not let ex-President Richard Nixon's scandal-dogged trip to Moscow pass unnoticed. The Foreign Ministry came down firmly on the side of Boris Yeltsin, who reacted angrily to the former White House chief's contacts with the diehard opposition. "Nixon would have gone on to meet with Anpilov, Barkashov, and Vasilyev from 'Pamyat,' and then ask for an audience with the Russian president.... Yeltsin's reaction was quite proper. We are entitled to expect respect," a high-ranking Russian diplomat said.

Moscow will also demand respect for its interests in "the near abroad." And although the United States has long since defined its approach in respect of the Baltic countries and is unlikely to yield to pressure from Moscow, Washington's plans in the sphere of Ukraine are not entirely clear. Kozyrev will try to clarify how far the reports that the United States intends to look upon Kiev as a counterweight to the increasing influence of Moscow correspond to reality.

Despite the abundance of delicate topics, the Russian Foreign Ministry will strive to avoid confrontation with Washington. In Vladivostok Kozyrev is unlikely to focus attention on differences of opinion, and he expects the same of Christopher. "There are no major reasons for exacerbating relations between Russia and the United States. The policy of strategic partnership proclaimed by Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton remains in force," IZVESTIYA was assured by an informed source on Smolenskaya Square.

Kozyrev Denounces NATO's Eastward Expansion

MK1103114094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Mar 94 p 3

[Sergey Tsekhmistrenko report: "Foreign Policy Council Meeting. Kozyrev: NATO Membership Card Is Not a Credit Card"]

[Text] It is essential not so much to enhance the military and political partnership of European countries, but rather to improve the mechanisms that have already been tested lest Europe be split by "a new Yalta." The thesis about setting NATO against the CSCE will, at Russia's prodding, apparently top the agenda of the December European summit. These ideas were also heard yesterday in Andrey Kozyrev's address before the Foreign Policy Council. The meeting discussed the NATO "Partnership for Peace" program (Pavel Grachev also spoke about it in Germany). After the minister's address the journalists were asked to leave, but your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent, Sergey Tsekhmistrenko, managed to learn interesting details about the meeting in the lobby.

Kozyrev's speech has left the impression that Moscow is concerned by how the "Partnership" initiative is being put into practice. It is not a coincidence that the minister focused on the subject of counterbalances to NATO, pointing out that it is the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and the CSCE that should become the core of Europe's future security system. To substantiate his stance, Kozyrev cited the following argument: "It is not NATO, but the CSCE that won the Cold War." But for the time being, in his words, "millions of misgivings" by the East Europeans and NATO members prevent a joint strategy from being devised. Moscow's former allies are flocking to NATO's doorstep, driven "by primitive calculations as they mix up a NATO membership card with a Western bank credit card." Making the reservation that he meant only "certain circles," Kozyrev still cautioned East European leaders, too, against mistakes for which they will have to pay "at the highest political rates." The Atlantists were also given a raw deal for their "NATO-centrism," being established "in a pretty simple and trite fashion"—by expanding the bloc in numeric terms.

Most addresses by council members that followed had a fairly radical idea for a leitmotif: the "Partnership" is not as advantageous for Russia as might be seen from the Kremlin or Smolenskaya Square [Foreign Ministry]. The speakers said that Russia should not expect equality in its cooperation with the West. Moreover, many people saw the concept as a desire to isolate Russia. This point of view was summed up by Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma committee for CIS affairs. He said that Russia's participation in the "Partnership" would dash its hopes in the near abroad, because even at present CIS countries are trying to blackmail Russia by appealing to the West. Given that, the parliamentarian has gotten the impression that "even Kazakhstani shores" were washed by the Atlantic Ocean. Vitaliy Churkin (who disagreed with Zatulin's view in general) conceded that the "little brothers," once they have grown up a bit, sometimes become, indeed, Moscow's main opponents in international organizations. The very question of "isolation" as raised by Mr. Zatulin, however, was somewhat strange, all the more so because the latter did not specify how Moscow could avoid it outside the "Partnership" once all former USSR republics join it.

Moscow Informed of Nixon Meetings in Advance

PM1103152794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Washington's White House Knew About Nixon's Meetings. The Kremlin Also Knew of Them in Advance"]

[Text] The Washington White House and President William Clinton personally knew that ex-President Richard Nixon, on setting out to visit Moscow, intended to meet with leaders of the Russian political opposition, including Zyuganov, Rutskoy, and Zhirinovskiy. No objections were made to Nixon on this score, nor was approval given, since these meetings were planned within the framework of the unofficial part of the trip by the ex-president, who had invitations both from the Russian Security Council and from the Foreign Policy Association.

The fact that this is so was confirmed by Clinton himself, who offered explanations to this effect on U.S. television Wednesday. According to our data, Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to Moscow, was given instructions, also Wednesday, to investigate the reasons for the diplomatic mini-scandal which marked the trip by Nixon, who was refused his preplanned meetings with Boris Yeltsin, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and other high-ranking staffers of the government and the presidential entourage. Pickering has already had contacts with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this connection, in particular with Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov.

According to members of Nixon's delegation, the Russian president's statement that William Clinton had "distanced himself from the trip" was groundless.

Official Moscow was informed on the day the ex-president arrived in Russia, i.e. last Sunday [6 March], that Nixon would meet with opposition leaders: Foreign Ministry staffers and representatives of the Protocol Department of the Russian president's apparatus were issued with the program of the visit, listing the meetings. There was more than enough time to voice their objections and to demand that meetings be refused. But at that stage, so I was told by Nixon's delegation, no objections were forthcoming.

Accordin[illegible]ata from the Nixon delegation, the ex-presiden[illegible]dually filling the gaps resulting from the refusals [illegible]eet with him. In particular, talks with Russian parliamentarians are scheduled for Thursday.

Attempts to obtain official comments from Russian sources—from the Foreign Ministry, above all—had not met with success by the time this issue was signed to press. On a strictly unofficial basis some diplomats regarded the report that Pickering had contacted Mamedov as "disinformation." It was also pointed out that the Russian Foreign Ministry has nothing to do with Nixon's visit. It must follow from this that the Foreign Ministry also was not familiar with the program of meetings in advance.

Nixon Adviser on Lessons in Russian Decision-Making

LD1103201494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1926 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Agureyev]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Dmitriy Simes, adviser of the U.S. ex-President Richard Nixon, accompanying him on the current visit to Russia, gave new details of Nixon's conversation with former Russian vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy. According to Simes, during the meeting Rutskoy said that he wanted to run for presidency at the nearest presidential elections in Russia.

Simes pointed out that in a conversation with Nixon the former Russian vice-president said that he intends to carry out his political campaign by exclusively lawful means.

Simes went on to say that Nixon met with a high-ranking official of the State Duma and a representative of the Russian Government. He pointed out that the names of those who met with the U.S. ex-President would be kept secret at their own request. At the same time, Simes said that one of the anonymous high-ranking politicians who had asked for a meeting with the U.S. ex-President canceled the meeting, saying he was unwell.

Returning to the subject of Nixon's having been deprived of a limousine equipped with a special security system which had earlier been in his possession, Simes denied allegations that this had been done at the request of the U.S. ex-President's entourage.

Commenting on the situation around Nixon's visit to Russia, Simes declared that the trip turned out to be the best lesson for him. "This trip made me realise better than ever how decisions are adopted by the Russian Government and what relations exist between its constituent parts, how president's advisers are operating and what the relations are like between the president's entourage and the president himself and the State Duma and an extent to which lawmakers can afford to make independent decisions. All this was very useful to me," Simes said.

"The situation which unfolded is unwelcome, but it has taught us a good lesson, "making us a little bit wiser," Simes said.

Yeltsin Considers Nixon Incident 'Closed'

LD1203140794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1257 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin regards as closed the recent incident when he refused to receive the former U.S. President Richard Nixon who is on a private visit to Russia. ITAR-TASS learned this from an official source in the Kremlin, who also said that Yeltsin was in favor of Nixon holding meetings with representatives of different branches of power in Russia. However, the Russian president himself will still be unable to receive the former U.S. President because of the death of his wife's, Naina Yeltsina's, mother several days ago.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told by Nixon's aides that U.S. President Bill Clinton and Robert Dole, the leader of the Republican group in the U.S. Senate and one of the most influential American legislators, approached the Russian head of state with requests to settle the complicated situation around this issue.

Representatives of Nixon have reported that on Monday [14 March] he will make a speech at a sitting of the Russian State Duma Committee for International Affairs at the invitation of the committee's chairman Vladimir Lukin.

Nixon Meets State Duma Members

LD1403110794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1039 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS—"Russia was and remains a great power and Russian-American relations are the most important for my country," ex-President Richard Nixon told members of the State Duma Committee for Foreign Affairs at a meeting here today.

The former U.S. president, who is visiting Moscow for the tenth time, noted that statements alleging that "America has triumphed over Russia" are a myth. Nixon also said that America jointly with Russia can cope with the global problems which "impose certain obligations on the two great powers."

Richard Nixon did not rule out the possibility of some frictions between the United States and Russia in the future but expressed confidence that "these will be differences between friends, not enemies." Nixon stressed the importance of open discussions of these differences.

Nixon described as "a positive phenomenon of the new time" the good personal relationship between Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin.

Along with this, Nixon sought to bring home to the Russian parliamentarians the concern felt by a part of American society about Russia's relapse to the aggressive policy. The ex-president said, "Russia is of course entitled to make its own steps in foreign policy, which do not always coincide with America's."

"We are now friends, so let us work together in order not to poison our relations," Nixon stressed. He pointed out the importance of strengthening cooperation between Russian and American parliamentarians.

Woolsey Remarks on Actions Following Ames Affair

LD1103163594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 11 Mar 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Barsukov]

[Text] Washington March 11 TASS—CIA Director James Woolsey announced on Thursday [10 March] that a commission of independent experts would be formed to look into the state of affairs in his agency's departments, which deal with counterespionage and interdepartmental security. The investigation's goal is to uncover the weaknesses in the organization of work and ensuring its secrecy in the light of the arrest of former-CIA official Aldrich Ames, who is now accused of working for Moscow for nine years.

Woolsey mentioned that, to head the commission, he would like to recruit former National Security Adviser under Bush's administration Brent Scowcroft, former secretary of defence under President Jimmy Carter Harold Brown, and the former head of the counterespionage department in the FBI, Douglas Gow. The commission will also include current CIA officials.

Besides, Woolsey delclared, the CIA would also conduct an "independent and energetic" investigation into the Ames affair. This will be headed by Fred Hitz, the inspector general of the intelligence department.

Woolsey noted that the parallel investigations will be carried on without applying pressure on the on-going judicial investigation into the activity of Ames and his wife, who is also accused of espionage.

Moscow Ready To Send Observers to Tuzla Airport

LD1103162994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Russia has confirmed its readiness to send its observers to the Tuzla airport along with the transportation and other equipment necessary for the airport's functioning, ITAR-TASS was told by representatives from the inspection group of the Russian Federation Ministry for Civil Defence and Emergency Situations.

The inspection group had just returned from Belgrade. They said the United Nations had not yet determined the necessary number of personnel, or working and living conditions for the Russian staff.

After examining the Tuzla airport's runway, the Russian group came to the conclusion that it was ready to handle planes. Flight navigation equipment must be set up soon, fences must be restored, and some areas still have to be de-mined.

Because of the complicated military situation in the Tuzla area, humanitarian aid should not be flown into the airport before an agreement on safety guarantees is reached with all the sides involved in the conflict, the Russians recommended. Humanitarian flights should begin no earlier than one week after the airport is reopened.

Churkin Arrives in Zagreb for Talks; Agenda Outlined

LD1203185594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1841 GMT 12 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Zagreb March 12 TASS—Special envoy of the Russian president Vitaliy Churkin arrived here today to discuss with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and relations between Zagreb and Belgrade.

Commenting on the current Croatian-Serb relations at the Zagreb Airport, Churkin told ITAR-TASS "they are not as smooth as they could be. I will do my best to achieve any progress".

He said there are considerable obstacles on the way of post-Yugoslav settlement, but the sides must find a possibility to progress.

The London meeting with special envoy of the U.S. President on Bosnia Charles Redman on Friday resulted in mutual understanding and readiness for the most close cooperation in the conflict settlement, said Churkin.

On Sunday the official will meet leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnian Serbs in Sarajevo and on Monday he will leave for Belgrade.

Churkin Meets Izetbegovic in Sarajevo

LD1303212994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2122 GMT 13 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Zagreb March 13 TASS—Russian envoy and Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, who is currently on a mediation mission in former Yugoslavia, met on Sunday [13 March] with Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic, chief of the rebel Serbs' self-styled parliament Momcilo Krajisnik and the commander of U.N. peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Commenting on the results of his trip, Churkin told TASS that these meeting had concentrated on Bosnian settlement, specifically the possibility of disengaging Croatian and Muslim forces.

As for Bosnia's territorial division and state arrangement, these issues need to be thoroughly examined, the Russian envoy noted. He is going to discuss them during Monday's meeting with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Speaking about the Russian peacekeeping battalion deployed in Sarajevo, Churkin said neither the Muslim side nor the regional command of peacekeeping forces had any claims to it. The battalion is to be shortly reinforced with about one hundred extra fighters expected to arrive in Sarajevo in late March.

As for the current situation in the Bosnian capital, Churkin believes it has notably changed for the better. "For the first time over the past year, the situation here is close to normal. Moreover, Krajisnik has told me that Serbs and Muslim reached agreement on movement of civilians in Sarajevo and around it. This is a very important decision", Churkin stressed.

Suggests Maglaj for Disengagement

LD1403043694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0300 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the Russian Federation president and deputy Russian foreign minister, who is on a mediatory trip to former Yugoslavia, met Alija Izetbegovic, chairman of the presidium of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Momcilo Krajisnik, head of parliament of the Bosnian Serb republic, and General Michael Rose, commander of the UN Forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina in Sarajevo. Commenting on the outcome of his trip, the high-ranking Russian diplomat stated today in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent that at these meetings there was discussion of questions of a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "We are now working on the idea of extending the experience of disengagement of forces on the lines of confrontation of Croats and Muslims to the Serbian-Muslim front. Disengagement of Serbian and Muslim units could be started with Maglaj, where the situation is the most complex. If this can be achieved on the whole line of combat operations, the war in Bosnia will be practically ended," Vitaliy Churkin said. [passage omitted]

Churkin, Milosevic Begin Talks in Belgrade

LD1403123194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1113 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 14 Mar—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the Russian president, arrived here today following his talks in Zagreb and Sarajevo. Immediately after his arrival he began talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. In the afternoon, the Russian diplomat is to have a meeting in Belgrade with members of the Bosnian Serb leadership.

In the course of another of his missions to the republics of former Yugoslavia, Churkin is discussing the current situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the aim of drawing up new initiatives to build upon the positive moves in the process of achieving a settlement in Bosnia.

'Satisfied' Serbs 'Thinking Positively'

LD1403163494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1515 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 14 Mar—I am satisfied that the Serb side is thinking positively with regard to what is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including using the idea of a Muslim-Croatian federation to advance a Bosnian settlement. This was stated by Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special envoy and deputy minister of foreign affairs of Russia, following meetings today with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and members of the Bosnian Serb leadership.

The Russian diplomat said that several formulas for a future structure of Bosnia that takes account of the interests of all its three peoples are now being examined. Alongside the promising possibility of a Croatian-Muslim formation joining a confederation with Croatia, the possibility of the Bosnian Serbs joining a confederation with Yugoslavia is also a quite logical option.

Replying to a question about the possibility of the United States recognizing a Serb republic in Bosnia, Churkin said that the United States understands that when the sovereign rights of two peoples of Bosnia are recognized, the sovereign rights of the third—the Serb people—must also be recognized. I simply cannot see any arguments in favor of any other approach, he stressed.

Speaking about the most difficult problem of the Bosnian settlement—the territorial demarcation of the communities, Churkin said that the new American approach does not envisage new territorial concessions by the Serbs. The previous proposals by the EU, with which the Serb side agreed, remain in force, he said.

Chernomyrdin Meets Finnish Counterpart in Helsinki

Report on Leaders' Talks

LD1103180394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1421 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Vladimir Mostovets]

[Text] Helsinki 11 Mar—The heads of government of Russia and Finland, Viktor Chernomyrdin and Esko Aho, at the bilateral talks that took place between the government delegations, spoke of the necessity of drawing up measures to provide effective support at state level for practical cooperation between Russian and Finnish firms and enterprises in order to reinforce the upturn in trade that has been observed in the past year. The ITAR-TASS correspondents were told this and about the results of the talks by Valeriy Grishin, first deputy head of the Russian Federation Government press service.

Valeriy Grishin said that during the in-depth discussion of questions of Russian-Finnish relations it was remarked that there were no fundamental political problems between them. At the same time, it was noted that the considerable drop in the level of trade between Russia and Finland since the mid-1980s remained an object of concern to both sides, as the current level was far below the two countries' potential. V. Chernomyrdin noted in this connection that Russia regards Finland not only as a good neighbor but also a prospective partner, and he stressed that the Russian Federation Government will provide assistance to the Finns' aspirations not to give up the positions they have won in our market.

The two sides' delegations assessed the conclusion of an accord to make additional deliveries of Russian weaponry and special equipment in part payment as an important step toward resolving the acute problem of Russia's indebtedness.

There was also a detailed exchange of opinions around the problems of Russian and Finnish participation in the processes of European integration. The government heads are united in the view that the process of Russia's drawing closer to the European Union and Finland's entry into the European Union will take account of the interests of ensuring Russian-Finnish trade and economic links. V. Chernomyrdin stressed that Russia is in favor of strengthening regional cooperation in the Baltic region, moreover, he favors cooperation aimed not at exchanging statements about intentions but at achieving practical results.

Touching on the problems of relations between Russia and the Baltic countries, the head of the Russian cabinet noted that our country continues to be seriously concerned over the position of the Russian-speaking population in Latvia and Estonia. He also pointed out that Tallinn and Riga were not prepared to heed the recommendations from human rights organizations and experts from the CSCE and European Union in the human rights sphere.

Viktor Chernomyrdin invited Esko Aho to pay an official visit to Russia.

Says No Problems in Relations

LD1103232894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1734 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Vladimir Mostovets]

[Text] Helsinki, 11 Mar—Russia does not intend to adopt sanctions of any kind against the Baltic countries, or does it intend to keep its troops in them. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin stated this at a short news conference on the results of Russian-Finnish intergovernmental talks held today.

Answering journalists' questions, he stressed that the Russian leadership "is not considering imposing sanctions" against Estonia, Latvia, or Lithuania.

At the same time, he stated emotionally that these countries should fulfil their obligations to observe the human rights of all people, without exception, living on their territories. "We will not allow Russians in the

Baltic countries who were born and who have grown up there to be treated in the future as they are being treated now. After all, we do not set any conditions for Estonians, Latvians, or Lithuanians living in Russia," he stressed.

The head of the Russian Government categorically rejected the presence of a "territorial problem" in Russo-Finnish relations. He stressed that Russia would like to have "transparent" borders with Finland, and a number of intergovernmental agreements signed today are aimed toward this. "We are not thinking about how to redraw the borders, but about simplifying the mechanism for trade in border areas, and about creating free economic zones," he added.

Chernomyrdin believes that the accords reached today between Russia and Finland lay the foundation for increasing trade and economic cooperation. Expressing his concern at the significant reduction in the trade balance between the two countries in the last five years, the premier said that Russia and Finland now have every opportunity not only to equal the balance figures of the mid-1980s, but also to surpass them.

Answering questions from Finnish journalists, the chairman of the government stressed that Russia intends to pay off gradually its existing debts to Finland, partly with arms deliveries. Esko Aho, who also took part in the news conference, noted in this connection that this is a "reasonable" approach. "We could consider the possibilities of paying off some debts not only with deliveries of Russian military equipment, but with other goods as well."

Finland Accepts Arms for Debt Payment

LD1103160294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Vladimir Mostovets]

[Text] Helsinki, 11 Mar—As a result of the intergovernmental talks held today in the Finnish capital and attended by Prime Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Esko Aho, a hefty package of documents has been signed between the governments of the two countries. These mainly relate to economic cooperation.

This package includes intergovernmental agreements on Russo-Finnish state border checkpoints, on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs affairs, in the area of fishing, on cooperation in the area of postal and electronic communications, on the cancellation of the Russian Federation's debt to the Finnish Republic through deliveries of special stock, and a memorandum on cooperation between the customs services of the two countries in the fight against the smuggling of radioactive materials. Also, as a result of the talks, a number of secret documents specifying the volumes and delivery mechanism for Russian arms as part of the cancellation of Russia's debt have been approved. Andrey Vavilov, first deputy finance minister of the Russian Federation told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that Russia would deliver modern weapons systems worth $80 million toward the cancellation of its debt. Among these would be anti-aircraft and artillery systems.

Energy Accords Signed

LD1203143494 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1100 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Both Imatran Voima [IVO, power company] and Neste [oil and gas company] have today signed significant energy agreements while the visit of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin continues in Helsinki. A subsidiary of Imatran Voima, IVO International, signed a general agreement worth almost 1 billion Finnish Markkas, which includes the modernization of several power plants in Russia, especially in the area of St. Petersburg. The main emphasis of the agreement is on modernizing the power plants, protecting the environment, and saving energy. Some of the projects will be financed by selling the saved energy to Finland.

The Russian natural gas company Gazprom will, for its part, become a partner with a 25 percent share in a natural gas company, which will remain a subsidiary of the Neste concern. In addition, a new 20 year-old agreement on supplying natural gas was signed. This agreement will increase the imports of natural gas from the current 2.9 billion cubic meters to more than 4 billion cubic meters by the end of the decade. The increase in the imports of natural gas will make the extension of the natural gas network in Finland possible. Neste reports that industry especially and the producers of heating in heavily populated areas are interested in increasing the use of natural gas.

At the end of his official visit to Finland, Prime Minister Chernomyrdin will have a 24-hour holiday in Lapland. Chernomyrdin and his small retinue will fly to Kittilae [north western Lapland] by special flight. The hosts of Prime Minister and Madame Chernomyrdin's day in Lapland are Prime Minister Esko Aho and Madame Kirsti Aho. Chernomyrdin will fly directly from Kittilae to Moscow tomorrow afternoon.

Russo-Finnish Agreements Detailed

LD1203040594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1707 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Vladimir Mostovets]

[Excerpts] Helsinki, 11 Mar—As a result of intergovernmental talks held today in the Finnish capital and attended by Prime Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Esko Aho, a hefty package of documents was signed, mainly concerning economic interaction between the two countries. [passage omitted]

According to the intergovernmental agreement on checkpoints on the Russo-Finnish border, besides the five checkpoints open for international road and rail transport, it has been decided to create a system of open temporary checkpoints on the border between the two countries for exclusively Finnish and Russian means of transport. This measure is aimed at developing border cooperation and simplifying the transportation of timber and the conducting of other economic activity.

The agreement on cooperation and mutual aid in customs matters replaces the 1975 Soviet-Finnish agreement in effect until now. It contains a mechanism for implementing customs cooperation, and clauses on the prevention of violations and mutual assistance in investigating them. The document specially stipulates measures to facilitate customs procedures, and also to prevent illegal transportation across the border of weapons, strategically important goods and cargoes endangering human health or the environment.

The agreement in the fishing sphere also replaces an earlier and similar agreement between Finland and the USSR signed in 1981. This is a conventional outline treaty for regulating fishing, on the basis of which plenipotentiary authorities from both sides can agree annually on quotas for species of fish, fishing zones and boats having the right to fish.

The agreement signed today on cooperation in the sphere of postal and electronic communications is intended to aid the development of postal communications between Russia and Finland. It is an outline agreement, replacing a similar document which the USSR concluded with Finland nine years ago.

The agreement on paying off the Russian Federation's debts to the Republic of Finland with supplies of special property determines the procedure for paying off Russian debts to the Bank of Finland with supplies of weapons and equipment. At present Russia's total debt to Finland amounts to $1.3 billion.

Chernomyrdin Ends Visit

LD1303143394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, ends his visit to Finland today. Touching upon Russia's relations with the Baltic countries at the concluding news conference in Helsinki, he expressed anxiety concerning the situation of the Russophone population in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Russia, said Chernomyrdin, does not intend to impose any kind of sanctions against the Baltic countries and does not intend to keep troops there, but these countries must observe human rights.

Gromov Says Black Sea Fleet 'Must Become Russian'

LD1203183494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1622 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] The Black Sea Fleet considers itself a Russian one and it must become Russian Fleet, commander-in-chief of Russia's Navy Felix Gromov declared at a press conference on Saturday [12 March] in St. Petersburg.

He underlined that the fate of the Black Sea Fleet should be solved in accordance with the agreement between Russian and Ukrainian presidents "according to which, the Fleet should be transferred to Russia."

Gromov negatively assessed attempts of the Ukrainian party to drag out the process of the Fleet's transfer, and, in particular, the proposal to make an inventory of the Fleet's property.

According to Gromov, Russian Navy plans to receive new ships from the industry, "We need a fleet which corresponds to Russia's economy and is able to fulfill tasks related to border guarding," stressed Gromov.

He also reported that the heavy atomic missile cruiser Petr Velikiy under construction at the Baltiyskiy factory in St. Petersburg is almost ready and will be put into operation soon. The crew has already arrived in St. Petersburg; the cruiser is to enter composition of the Pacific Fleet.

Russia To Tolerate Ukraine Gas Debt Until Apr

LD1203172394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1400 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Russia will endure Ukraine's debt for fuel and energy and its syphoning off of gas till April, Chairman of Russian government Viktor Chernomyrdin declared on Saturday in Helsinki after the signing of an agreement between the joint stock company Gazprom and Finnish company Neste.

During his conversation with journalists Chernomyrdin pointed out that as of today Ukraine's debt to Russia for fuel and energy is about $1 Bn [Billion]. To this effect Chernomyrdin expressed his concern over this fact. "We make many concessions and await that Ukraine's leadership will start to act but not to talk," he said. According to Chernomyrdin, other consumers of Russian natural gas suffer because of Ukraine's debt.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Gazprom's board Rem Vyakhirev declared in his interview with Interfax that if Ukraine fails to fulfill the agreement signed on March 10 in Moscow then Russian deliveries for the republic's inner consumption will be entirely stopped. He underlined that this issue would be finally solved before April 11, the time of the next talks on Ukraine's debt for fuel and energy delivered from Russia.

On Saturday in Helsinki, Vyakhirev signed two agreements with the leadership of the firm Neste, on deliveries of Russian gas to Finland for the next twenty years and on procurement of 25% of shares of the Finnish gas company by Gazprom.

In Vyakhirev's words, the document stipulates that in 1994 Russia is due to supply 3.2 Bn cubic meters of natural gas to Finland.

In the course of his visit to Finland Chernomyrdin signed several bilateral economic agreements and a document on deliveries of Russian armaments to this country.

Viktor Samoylov, general director of the state company on armaments and military equipment export and import Rosvooruzhenie, reported to Interfax that Russia would deliver to Finland armaments amounting to $100 Mn [Million] to compensate its foreign debt. As he said, these are air defense weapons, spare parts for military equipment, ammunitions for artillery, and small arms.

Samoylov pointed out that Russia sells weapons to Finland since 1959.

Russia's debt to Finland is $1.3 Bn.

Gas Supply to Ukraine 'Stabilized'

LD1403164594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1413 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS—While Russian gas supplies to Ukraine have stabilised, the volume of gas deliveries to neighbouring Belarus has dropped by ten million cubic meters since the beginning of March.

"Ukraine has pledged to pay 100 million U.S. dollars by the end of March as part of its debt which amounts to about 1.3 trillion roubles," Vladimir Podmarkov, chief engineer of Russia's Gazprom gas concern, said on Monday.

Russia and Ukraine agreed in Moscow on March 10 that Ukraine will pay 50 per cent of its debt for 1993 with financial means, including hard currency, and the rest with equipment and materials for Gazprom. The debt for the first quarter of 1994 will be paid only with financial means. Russia resumed gas supplies to Ukraine, following the agreement. Presently, it pumps 195 million cubic meters of gas daily to Ukraine.

As for Belarus, its debt for Russian gas supplies has totalled about 400 billion roubles. It has failed to make the promised payments so far. In retaliation, Russia has cut gas supplies to that republic. Podmarkov said Russian gas supplies to Moldova and the Baltic states are within the agreed limits.

Russian Troops Will Be Backbone of UN Force in Georgia

LD1103184094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 11 Mar 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Russia believes that its troops will be the backbone of the UN peacekeeping force "if and when the decision on their deployment in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict is taken," a high-ranking diplomat in the Russian Foreign Ministry in charge of these problems told Interfax.

He said "there is nothing new" in the proposals made by the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze in Washington. "The leaders of Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia have already asked the UN to send a peacekeeping force to the conflict zone. The question is that Georgians would like to have them deployed along the Psou River, while Abkhazians would like to have them along the Inguri River. However, the UN is not hurrying to take a decision, he said. "The opponents of giving the Russian troops the status of a UN peacekeeping force insist that such a decision should be preceded by certain progress in a political settlement of the conflict," he noted.

The diplomat pointed out that Moscow continues to adhere to another approach. "We think that the sooner the UN takes a corresponding decision, the sooner the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict is settled," he said.

Grachev, German Counterpart Comment on NATO

LD1203010694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1656 GMT 11 Mar 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondents Leonid Vorontsov and Aleksey Korinenko]

[Excerpts] Berlin, 11 Mar—The leaders of the military departments of the FRG and Russia called the visit to the FRG by Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev "very successful and friendly." [passage omitted]

During the visit, a joint statement was signed in which the sides called good relations between Russia and Germany a most important factor of stability and security in Europe. Protocols on mutual exchange in training soldiers and officers and on cooperation in the sphere of environmental conservation were also signed during the visit. [passage omitted]

German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe stressed, in particular, the importance of Russia participating in the Partnership for Peace [PFP] program. He called Russia a most important partner of NATO's. Pavel Grachev, in his turn, stated that he regards this program as a document for the transitional period. "This period began with the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and will end when the countries which belonged to it, and also the states formed in place of the Soviet Union, find their place in the world community," he said, in reply to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "They should become independent states, both in economic and political terms, carrying out a course for democracy, peace, and cooperation."

Speaking of the role of NATO in the system of European security, P. Grachev noted that it was not just the North Atlantic alliance which should take part in it, but also all international organizations on the continent—the CSCE, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, the European Union, and the West European Union. The main role here, however, should belong to "the main peace-keeping organization"—the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. He did not exclude NATO's integration into the common European process right up to this organization being transformed into a unified structure. "Time will tell what this structure will be like," P.Grachev said. He spoke out in favor of Russia's cooperation with the North Atlantic bloc and for its integration into it.

Touching upon the intention of a number of East European states to join NATO, the Russian minister stated: "We will not foist our will upon other states. We do not have the right to do that, but we would like to see on their part the desire to cooperate with NATO and not to be integrated into it."

Having noted that the final decision on the ceremony to see off the ally's troops from Berlin would be taken at the highest political level, both ministers stressed that this should happen in a "worthy manner." "We would like to leave Germany as friends," P. Grachev said, "all the more so since the Western Group of Forces have formed good relations with the German side." Volker Ruehe in his turn said, in reply to an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question, that he would like to see every Russian soldier returning home as an ambassador of Germany's. The date for the completion of the withdrawal of troops, should, in his opinion, not just remind one of the past but also allow one to take a look into the future where cooperation between the two countries will be developed anew.

In Berlin, Pavel Grachev and Volker Ruehe laid wreathes at the memorial in Tiergarten to Soviet soldiers and at the memorial to those who tried to assassinate Hitler on 20 July 1944.

Having ended his official visit to Germany, Pavel Grachev will spend another two days on German soil. He will hold meetings with the command and men of the Western Group of Forces.

Grachev Discusses CSCE

LD1303165094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1324 GMT 13 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Leonid Vorontsov and Aleksey Korinenko]

[Excerpts] Berlin, 13 Mar—Russian Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev ended a five-day visit to Germany today. [passage omitted]

A chance is at hand, which under no circumstances must be let slip, the Russian minister said, appearing before the press. This is a chance to considerably improve bilateral relations in all areas. [passage omitted]

Speaking to journalists in Berlin, Grachev stressed that the fundamental role in the system of European security should belong to the "main peacemaking organization"—the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. He did not rule out NATO being integrated into the common European process right through to the transformation of that organization into a single structure. [sentence as heard] Time will show what kind of structure that will be, Grachev said, calling for cooperation between Russia and the North Atlantic bloc but not for integration into it.

After noting that a final decision on the parting ceremony for the allied troops leaving Berlin would be taken at the highest political level, both ministers stressed that it would have to proceed in a fitting manner. We would like to leave Germany as friends, Grachev said, all the more so since good relations have arisen between the Western Group of Forces and the German side. [passage omitted]

Grachev Lauds German Ties

PM1403132194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 94 p 7

[Igor Yavlyanskiy report: "Will They Play the 'Slav Woman's Farewell' in Berlin?"]

[Text] Bonn—Three Russian officers will become students at the Bundeswehr Academy in Hamburg this year. And a German colleague will be attending the General Staff Academy in Moscow. Russian and German warships will soon be holding joint maneuvers in the Baltic, and next year the first Russo-German command post exercises will be held in Russia. This was stated at a Bonn press conference by Grachev and Ruehe, heads of the Russian and FRG military departments. The Russian defense minister also announced that a department to retrain officers released to the reserve as a result of cutbacks will open in Moscow at the end of the month.

Pavel Grachev made a high assessment of the level of relations between the two countries' military departments. He stressed that it would be a good idea if other states (the hint was clearly addressed to the Baltic republics) were to learn how to organize the Russian troop withdrawal from their territories in a civilized way.

One other as it were "ceremonial" issue is still under discussion—how to hold the farewell parade of Russian troops in Berlin 3 August this year to mark the end of their withdrawal from German territory. Certain Bonn politicians (Foreign Minister Kinkel, for instance) are suggesting that the expediency of holding this ceremony depends on the development of the situation with the Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia. On this issue Grachev showed typically military resolve—whether there is a parade or not is up to Yeltsin and Kohl, nobody else.

He was equally clear-cut in answering a question about the future of the 81,000 tonnes of Russian munitions which, in the German side's opinion, are liable to be left on German territory: "You can quote me in your newspapers that all munitions will have been withdrawn from the FRG to Russia by the end of this May."

Spy Case Effect on German Relations Viewed

LD1103171994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1648 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—The arrest of a Russian citizen accused of spying for Germany has been confirmed only very unwillingly by official representatives of either side involved. The reason does not lie in the Russian Counter-Espionage Service's modest desire to keep quiet about another success or in the German service's silent mourning of an agent.

There are many reasons, but the main one is that both agencies have agreed not to "hand their dirty linen out" for the whole world to see. This is not surprising, especially considering the fact that the matter concerns not only professional secrets, but the observance of human rights as well. Only a court can determine a person's guilt. To guard the suspect's rights both sides are covering up his name and the circumstances of his arrest.

The investigation is still going on, and it would be better if the matter was not made public at all. Apparently, the Counter-Espionage Service has yet to uncover the source of the leak about the arrest. A babble-mouth is truly a great find for a spy.

Having received a very sketchy confirmation of the incident from Moscow, journalists bombarded official representative of the German Government Dietier Vogel with questions. He stated that Bernd Schmidbauer, Helmut Kohl's top aide on intelligence issues, had a phone conversation with the head of Russia's Counter-Espionage Service. Vogel declared that the two sides "are not attaching a lot of importance to this incident, and it will not have any effect on the political relationship" between Russia and Germany.

The questions opened up by such events should be answered only by the intelligence officials of the two countries, the chancellor's representative explained. "The truth is, that intelligence operations are carried out all over the world, and they do not have particular political significance", he noted.

"Besides, the Russian and German espionage agencies cooperate with each other to some extent. The Germans have their intelligence mission in Russia, and the Russians, the former KGB, have one in Bonn. They are, so to speak, officially accredited. The two sides cooperate closely in many spheres, in particular, in the fight against terrorism and organized crime", he said.

Stepashin Discusses Case

LD1103150694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1455 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—The recent arrest of a Russian citizen on charges of spying for Germany was a key issue of a telephone conversation between Sergey Stepashin, head of the Russian Federal Counter-Intelligence service (FCS), and German State Minister Bernd Schmidbauer on Friday [11 March], a spokesman for the Russian Counter-Intelligence Service told ITAR-TASS.

Aleksandr Mikhailov, the FCS spokesman, said that "the conversation was of a professional character".

The arrest was earlier officially confirmed by the agency.

According to Mikhailov, "the arrest has no political bearing". The detainment of the German agent was the result of counter-intelligence activities aimed at securing Russia's state interests", he said.

Company Hopes To Sell Arms to Libya, Iraq

LD1403152494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] A news conference held today at the premises of the Rosvooruzheniye [Russian weapons] state company was devoted to matters relating to the arms trade. Our correspondent Marina Chernukha has the details.

[Chernukha] Lieutenant General Viktor Samoylov, the company's director general, anticipated many of the journalists' questions by stating that Russia unequivocally intends to defend its position on the world arms market.

[Begin Samoylov recording] Regarding the trade in arms, yes, we are going to fight, and we are already fighting on the market. We have the advantage of not having lost our old markets. We still have them. We are hoping for new markets as well—primarily the Pacific and Asian, the Latin American, which we are beginning to penetrate, and also South Africa, where we are already established normally. [end recording]

[Chernukha] Samoylov stressed that Russia does not intend to act in contravention of UN sanctions regarding trade with Iraq and Libya. However, he made it clear that as soon as these are lifted, Russia could offer these countries competitive military equipment and armaments.

Zhirinovskiy Arrival in Warsaw Causes 'Melee'

LD1203005194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2357 GMT 11 Mar 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Potemkin]

[Text] Warsaw, 12 Mar—Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) arrived in the Polish capital late on Friday [11 March] evening in "an atmosphere of adventure," as a commentator on Warsaw radio nighttime news put it. Alongside the leaders of the Samoobrona National Front, which invited him to its first congress, waiting for Zhirinovskiy at Warsaw's Okecie Airport were a group of young people described by commentators as belonging to an "antifascist organization" of the capital's university.

As Zhirinovskiy left the airport terminal, these young people joined the rush of reporters towards him, shouting "Black Pig," "Go Away," and "Get out of Poland." Uniformed men of the so-called Polish legion, Samoobrona's youth organization, their faces concealed by their caps, leapt to the defense of their guest. A police squad had to wield truncheons to break up the melee.

Reporters involved in the scuffle, some of them tenderly touched by the truncheons, made indignant mention in their dispatches of the tough conduct of the squad that dispersed them. However, they were unable to find out from the airport authorities to which police unit it belonged.

Reporters also noticed that for three quarters of an hour, border guards failed to let Zhirinovskiy and those with him through. The guards claim that this was because their guest's bodyguards had no visas, although Poland and Russia are known to operate an agreement on visa-free travel.

The arrival of the LDPR leader was preceded by an unprecedented campaign in the Polish press and political circles. Calls to ban him from entering the country were voiced even in the Polish Sejm, on Friday. A special opinion poll was published here on the eve of Zhirinovskiy's arrival. According to its authors, 66 percent of Poles believe that the LDPR leader "is a threat to Poland."

Lavrov Discusses Moscow's Participation in G-7

LD1103130494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0400 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo, 11 Mar—Russian and the G-7 countries plan to adopt a common political declaration at the Naples meeting in July of the leaders of the seven leading industrial countries of the world, in which Russian President Boris Yeltsin is again to take part. This was stated by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who is here in Tokyo, in an interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "The adoption of a joint declaration by the G-7 countries and Russia marks in effect the transformation of the Group of Seven into a "political eight," he said.

The deputy minister said that even before the previous meeting of the G-7 leaders in Tokyo last summer, Moscow proposed that Russia participate fully in the political part of the discussions at the meeting and that a common "declaration of the eight leaders" be adopted on its results. However, because there was not enough time to prepare a new formula for Russian participation in the G-7 conference, it was decided to turn down this plan.

"This time, however, prior to the Naples meeting, Russia submitted this proposal in good time, and it has has been supported on the whole by the G-7 countries; we hope that the Naples conference will be a step forward compared with the previous meetings of President Boris Yeltsin and the G-7 leaders and will demonstrate the readiness of the G-7 and Russia to cooperate in resolving international political problems as a Group of Eight," Sergey Lavrov said. He stressed: "We believe that Russia, as one of the world's leading powers, without whose participation it is difficult to resolve many international problems, should be more actively drawn into the activity of the G-7 than it is at present."

The deputy head of the Russian Foreign Ministry pointed out that it was a question of closer cooperation between Russia and the G-7 exclusively in the sphere of politics. In the sphere of economics, Russia, which is now implementing economic reforms, is hardly ready to become a full participant in the work of the Group of Seven. "But in the political sphere, closer cooperation between us is quite possible," Sergey Lavrov said. "The political declaration adopted at the meeting of the G-7 leaders in Tokyo, for example, does not contain a single question that would not be of direct interest to Russia and in whose tackling our country in one way or another would not be involved."

Japan Agrees To Limit Fishing in Russian Zone

LD1303013494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1155 GMT 12 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Excerpts] Tokyo, 12 Mar—Aleksandr Rodin, first deputy head of the Russian Federation fisheries committee, who headed the Russian delegation at the two-week-long Russian-Japanese talks on salmon fishing which ended in Tokyo today, said the results of the talks met Russia's national interests. He told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that an agreement had been reached to cut the catch of salmon by Japan in Russia's economic zone by 1,000 tons as against last year's catch and to keep the size of the catch in Japanese waters of salmon from Russia at the same level as last year's.

This means that this year Japanese fishermen have the right to catch no more than 14,000 tons of Russian river salmon inside the Russian economic zone and no more that 4,800 tons in Japanese waters. [passage omitted]

The head of the Russian delegation said that the decision was also made at the talks that Japan, as before, would compensate Russia for some of its expenditure on scientific research on salmon, on breeding and protecting them. [passage omitted]

The first deputy head of the fisheries committee noted that the results of the talks in Tokyo would in no way have a negative influence upon Russia's salmon supply. [passage omitted]

Political Issues

Yeltsin Says Sochi Trip 'Not for Treatment'

LD1403092794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0837 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS—"I do not expect any aggravation of political tension in the country and am leaving for a vacation calmly," President Boris Yeltsin said at Vnukovo-2 before flying to Sochi today.

According to President Yeltsin, "a vacation is a change in the schedule of work" for him. He said that he was feeling normal after the flu and his trip was not "for treatment but for work."

During his vacation, the president intends to work on the definition of a mechanism of implementing the president's message to the Federal Assembly. Within the frame of this project, he will probably be visited in Sochi by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and other Russian leaders.

Responding a question from ITAR-TASS, Boris Yeltsin said that he would also work "during my vacation on drafting an agreement on civil peace and concord."

"Of course, it will not be simple to sign a memorandum of accord, the spectrum of differences is extensive," he said. "Nonetheless I believe that common approaches can be found and an agreement can be signed on their basis."

[Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 0900 GMT on 14 March adds: "Yeltsin reported that he had recently undergone two bouts of influenza and was experiencing some weakness. However, he stressed that he was going to Sochi not for a cure but just for a vacation, and also to work."]

Views Civil Peace Accord

LD1403160194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1521 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yekaterina Zhilyakova and Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS—"It won't be easy to sign a memorandum of civil peace and accord, considering disagreements between political parties and movements in society," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said before his departure to a Black Sea resort on Monday.

The idea of signing the memorandum between various branches of power, political parties and public movements was proposed by Yeltsin during his meeting with journalists on March 9. On March 10 he held the first working meeting to draw up a draft document.

Nikolay Travkin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, confirmed his readiness to cooperate with other parties. "The development of the political situation in the country will depend on the solution of economic rather than political tasks. Unless we stabilise the economy, the country will be doomed to political catastrophes," he said.

Lev Ponomarev, leader of the Democratic Russia Movement, told ITAR-TASS that he "did not believe in the possibility of forging a union with communists and other representatives of the opposition." He called for "unconditional support for the idea of civil peace and accord by his movement." "I am sure that during the work on the memorandum the opposition will demand state regulation of prices and other conditions of restoration of socialism. In that case we will not be able to sign the document," Ponomarev said.

Grigoriy Serebrenikov, a member of the faction of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) in the State Duma, said that "the LDPR has already made a step towards civil peace" and "plans to take an active part in the development of the draft memorandum."

Yeltsin Accepts Procurator Kazannik's Resignation

LD1403105394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0958 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Mar—The press service of the Russian president has circulated the text of a decree by Boris Yeltsin "On certain matters relating to the resignation of the procurator general of the Russian Federation." It states:

"Owing to the fact that A.I. Kazannik was appointed to the post of procurator general of the Russian Federation not in accordance with the procedure laid down by Article 102 of the Russian Federation Constitution, and taking into consideration his personal request, I resolve:

1. To regard the resignation of Aleksey Ivanovich Kazannik from the post of procurator general of the Russian Federation as accepted.

2. To deem Point 1 of the decree by the Russian Federation president of 26 February 1994, No.391 "On the procurator general of the Russian Federation" as no longer valid.

3. This decree takes effect on publication.

Kazannik 'Surprise Move'

PM1403150394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Mar 94 p 2

["Own information" report: "Aleksey Kazannik's Surprise Move"]

[Text] Aleksey Kazannik, who is now in Omsk, has confirmed in a telephone conversation with the

IZVESTIYA editorial office that he intends to ask the Federation Council, which is responsible under the Constitution for appointing the general prosecutor to his post and releasing him from it, not to accept his resignation which he tendered to the president 26 February in connection with well known events. Kazannik believes that he has not broken the law or thereby provided grounds for being released from his post. He voiced confidence that Russia could have in him a really independent general prosecutor. To date, Kazannik has not received from the Federation Council an invitation to participate in the session at which his question will be discussed, and he does not intend to "angle" for this, although he reckons that the question of his resignation will not, all the same, be examined in the absence of the claimant.

This statement appears strange, to say the least, if you recall that Aleksey Kazannik tendered his resignation to Boris Yeltsin of his own will and even against the will of Yeltsin, and it was widely rumored by the General Prosecutor's Office.

Yeltsin Reportedly Meets, Reassures Yerin

LD1103213294 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2040 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] A correspondent of the Postfactum agency has learned from confidential sources in the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs that a closed door meeting has recently taken place between President Boris Yeltsin and Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin. The source said that Boris Yeltsin estimated the activity of the Ministry at the present moment as satisfactory and promised all kinds of support for the law enforcement bodies.

Economic Freedom Party Leader Survives Attack

LD1203222194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 12 May 94

[Video report by correspondent S. Dadyko, including recorded comment by Konstantin Borovoy, leader of the Economic Freedom Party—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] There was an attempt on the life of Konstantin Borovoy, the leader of the Economic Freedom Party, in Yaroslavl Oblast this morning. His automobile was shot at and then blown up. Fortunately, Borovoy managed to get out of the automobile before the explosion. Sergey Dadyko with the details.

[Dadyko] Two hours ago and straight after his arrival from Yaroslavl, Konstantin Borovoy gave the details of the attempt to kill him. Shots were fired into the right-hand side of the windshield of his Mercedes, after which Borovoy, who was at the wheel, veered left into a ditch. A second later he jumped out into the snow, and after that came the explosion.

Police have begun an investigation, and in the burned-out automobile found eight bullets from an automatic weapon and grenade fragments. But the question of who fired on him remains unanswered.

[Borovoy] You understand, there are not many people like me, if you take an unbiased look at me. I have often spoken out in various ways. You know what I said about the exchanges. I was very outspoken about Lipetsk. But I do not think this was a political event. I reckon it was just small-time thugs.

'Democratic Union' Accuses Yeltsin

LD1303161294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] The coordinating council of the Democratic Union (led by Valeriya Novodvorskaya) has laid the responsibility for the attempt to kill the leader of the Economic Freedom Party, Konstantin Borovoy, on President Boris Yeltsin, and accused him of "conniving at fascists and communists."

"The shots sounded when it had become known that the Economic Freedom Party will not join Zyuganov's Communists and Zhirinovskiy's respectable fascists in signing a document on civil concord," the union said in its communique released on Sunday.

According to the communique, the attempt to kill Borovoy "is the start of red political terror and the first consequence of the amnesty granted to political criminals and of the discourse on civil peace and accord with communists and fascists."

The Democratic Union believes that the stand taken by President Yeltsin will lead in Russia to "democracy without democrats," who will be removed either "with the help of Soviet courts—witness the case of Vil Mirzayanov, or with the help of political terror, as in the case of Konstantin Borovoy."

In this connection the Democratic Union "gives the Russian president a month to cancel the amnesty, return the October rebels to prison, and outlaw the extremist activity of communists and fascists." Otherwise we shall consider ourselves free to start forming on April 12th armed units to defend ourselves, democracy, civilization and the Constitution together with other radical democratic forces," said the Democratic Union of Russia in its communique.

Moscow To Allow 17 Mar Opposition Rally

LD1103221494 Moscow MTK Television in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] The Moscow Government has decided to allow a number of opposition parties and movements to hold rallies on 17 March. The rallies, according to the intentions of the organizers, are timed to coincide with the third anniversary of the referendum on the fate of the USSR.

The applicants to hold rallies, which are to be held in the very center of Moscow on Theater Square—the aim of which, according to the organizers, is to confirm the people's volition for the unity of the country, as expressed in the March 1991 referendum and also the leading role of Russia in creating a single union state—are the Russian Communist Party, the National Salvation Front, Working Moscow, the Liberal Democratic Party, and Revival.

Sergey Dontsov, head of the Moscow Council's State Legal Directorate, today spoke to their representatives, calling on them to strictly follow the aim of the planned action and not to try the patience of the Moscow authorities by coming out with slogans which do not fit in with the direct purpose of the rallies. In this regard, Sergey Dontsov warned those present that if such incidents, which have already taken place on several occasions, are repeated, then opposition parties and movements will no longer be allowed to meet on Theater Square, but given places further from the center.

Gaydar on Possible Return to Government

LD1303213394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2105 GMT 13 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Bagdatiev]

[Text] Perm March 13 TASS—Former Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Economics Minister Yegor Gaydar does not rule out the possibility of his "third advent" to the Russian Government, Gaydar told journalists in the Perm airport late on Sunday. He arrived in Perm at the invitation of Perm Region Governor Boris Kuznetsov.

"I firmly believe Russia's main problem now is linked with the slowing down of the social life transformation process", Gaydar said. "I am convinced the ongoing transformations can be given a new impetus. I am ready to work on this in the government when there are political preconditions for it", Gaydar said.

Gaydar plans to meet on Monday with the regional administration and entrepreneur's to discuss the situation in Russia, prospects for its development as well as the most acute problems the region and the whole country are facing. Gaydar also plans to visit the school his grandmother went to and to acquaint himself with the Perm period of his grandfather's—renowned Russian writer Arkadiy Gaydar—life.

PRES Leader Shakhray Views Amnesty, Party Role

AU1403101294 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 5-6 Mar 94 pp 1,6

[Interview with Sergey Shakhray, leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRES), by Vasil Popov; place and date not given: "Every Intelligent Person Knew About the Amnesty"]

[Text] [Popov] How do you explain the surprise of certain politicians and statesmen after the adoption of the decree on the political amnesty?

[Shakhray] Every intelligent person in Russia knew already on 12 December—the first day after the elections—that there would be a decree on amnesty in Russia. The text was discussed several times. Representatives of the presidential administration attended the meeting at which the last variant was discussed. Therefore, President Boris Yeltsin knew precisely about the text and the attitude of the parliamentary forces. The 18 affirmative votes of the PRES could not change anything. The reaction and confusion show that, as before, at the federal level, there is no coordination between the president, the government, and the prosecution.

[Popov] Do you think that the amnesty would also have been adopted had it been outside the package of documents?

[Shakhray] Without any doubt. This amnesty was not a goal in itself, but a step toward civic peace. However, I would like to draw your attention precisely to the package of documents. I do not understand why people only speak about the amnesty decree. First of all, there is the memorandum. On the basis of this memorandum, political forces must sit together, negotiate, and reach certain agreements about accord, which will guarantee that those who have been released will not provoke civic clashes. Then, there are certain judicial guarantees that sound as a warning, namely, that each of the released could be imprisoned again. Only afterward were they allowed to leave their cells. However, even in itself, the political amnesty is an element of civic peace. We bear responsibility for our decisions and for not allowing any bloodshed.

[Popov] Your party congress has just ended. How do you view your place in political life and your party's influence?

[Shakhray] We are one of the five leading parties and perhaps even more than that. We are trying to construct an all-national party. We have 64 active regional organizations and several dozen are in the process of registration. This is a conservative party based on traditional values—the state, family, property, and morality.

Our formula for Russia's renewal contains a socially oriented market economy, federalism, and local self-government. Our main task is not only to represent the regions in the federation center but also to influence the formation and implementation of all-state interests.

[Popov] Do you expect a reshaping of the Russian political space and what direction will this take?

[Shakhray] We think that two or three all-national parties are needed, and one of them is our party, which represents a conservative regional idea. Sooner or later, an all-national social democratic party will emerge. It could have various names, but its prospects are promising. It is more difficult to speak about the third party because Zhirinovskiy already uses a popular name for his party [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia]. However, conservative, social-democratic, and liberal ideas will crystallize in the form of three major parties. The emergence of those three economic and political currents depends to a large degree on election legislation. If the percentage barrier is raised, such blocs will emerge sooner. In any event, elections remain the only way for these parties to emerge.

Electoral Official: Zhirinovskiy Won Without Fraud

LD1203175294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1400 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] The Electoral Commission of the one-mandate District N 114 in the town of Shchelkovskiy, from which Vladimir Zhirinovskiy was elected to the Duma, has appealed to Moscow's Regional Court.

The Commission's Chairman Nikolay Demenev has reported to Interfax that the appeal was filed in response to the Shchelkovskiy Town Court decision to dismiss the election results as invalid because of the violations exposed in the commission's work.

In an interview with Interfax Demenev denied that Zhirinovskiy's victory had been rigged as a result of improper votes counting. In his opinion, not a single electoral commission member shares Zhirinovskiy's views or sides with him. "We were politically impartial and absolutely objective. As for insignificant irregularities, they can be found in any electoral commission", Demenev declared. In his opinion, this legal case is "explicitly" political, and its aim is to strip Zhirinovskiy of his parliamentary mandate.

"To stop at nothing to discredit electoral commission workers is base", Demenev said.

Legal proceedings against the electoral commission were initiated by Oleg Novikov, a candidate to the Duma from that district. The commission's appeal will be considered next week-end.

Chernomyrdin Makes Ministerial Appointments

LD1403095694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin appointed Aleksandr Vronts Russian deputy communications minister, says a resolution which came to ITAR-TASS today.

Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a decree appointing Yuriy Portnov chairman of the Russian Federation's Committee for Affairs of the Youth, Physical Culture and Tourism.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin appointed Vladimir Volodin first deputy chairman of the Russian Committee for the Press. Sergey Gryzunov and Andrey Chernenko were appointed deputy chairmen of this committee, says a resolution of the Russian Government which came to ITAR-TASS today.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Comments on Belarus Currency Moves

LD1403160994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1442 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Mar—Russia and Belarus "are capable of concluding an agreement on unifying currency systems." Russia's head of government announced this today in a short talk with journalists. According to Viktor Chernomyrdin, he knows nothing "about demands Russia is allegedly making of Belarus." He is convinced that "solutions acceptable both to Russia and to Belarus will be found."

Viktor Chernomyrdin pointed out that the negotiations between Russia and Belarus "are proceeding normally." "No one has made any demands of anyone else," the prime minister emphasized.

Advocating that an agreement on unifying currency systems be signed as soon as possible, the Russian head of government stated that he "opposes hasty decisions." In his opinion, "haste will not help." The prime minister is firmly convinced that the main thing is not only that an agreement should be signed, but that it should be implemented.

Draft Budget Forecasts Protectionism, Halving of Ruble

MK1203130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 Mar 94 p 1

[Yelena Kolokoltseva, Dmitriy Volkov report under the "Hopes" rubric: "Budget Passed to State Duma. Incentives for Domestic Producers May Cause Importers' Apathy"]

[Text] The unapproved Russian draft budget for 1994 has been passed to the State Duma. Its main figures confirm that the government plans to offset the reduction in direct tax rates and the VAT [value-added tax] primarily by raising import tariffs. The tight protectionism in favor of domestic producers, who have still now not given up hope of converting their products into full-fledged commodities, may cause a situation, however, where actual budget revenues will be significantly lower than what is planned. A high import tariff is effective only if there is something it can be imposed on.

The attached table shows the overly high level of estimated budget revenues in 1994. According to estimates made by the Finance Ministry, which had drawn up the draft budget, the relative increase in the share of indirect taxes to be received by the federal treasury as a percentage of GDP is attributable to the imposition of a new type of tax (a charge for the support of the agro-industrial sector and the coal industry), the increase in the excise rates on imported alcoholic drinks (by 30 percent) starting 1 January 1994, and a change in the distribution of VAT revenues between various levels of the budget system. In the Finance Ministry's view, the change in the share of direct taxes as a percentage of GDP has been caused by amendments made to the taxation and budget legislation (calling for new tax rates to be levied on individuals and legal entities).

The Finance Ministry explains the increase in revenues from foreign economic activity in the GDP by the fact that starting from 1994 foreign currency funds are taken into account together with ruble revenues, but in order to estimate the total amount of revenues they are converted into rubles at an exchange rate forecast for the end of 1994 (to all appearances, Finance Ministry specialists hope that it will be kept at 3,200 rubles per dollar). In addition, the Finance Ministry hopes to collect the bulk of its estimated revenues from foreign economic operations by raising import tariffs.

	Percentage of GDP	
	1993, in real terms	1994, forecast
Federal budget revenues, total,	10.6	16.2
including:		
1. Tax revenues, total,	10.3	12.7
A. Direct taxes and payments,	4.8	3.8
of them:		
profit tax	3.4	3.0
B. Indirect taxes,	5.5	8.9
of them:		
VAT	4.5	4
excise	0.6	2.2
agro-industrial-sector and coal industry support charge	—	0.8
2. Revenues from foreign economic activity	0.2	2.9
3. Other revenues and charges	0.1	0.6

Deputy Premier Soskovets Interviewed on Budget

LD1203225394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1458 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Interview with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets by correspondent Chernyshova; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Chernyshova] Oleg Nikolayevich, the press has been discussing the recent expanded government session for already more than a week. One can say that the government is not in a hurry to be involved in this discussion. If we summarize all statements, I think that probably the main claims to the adopted budget will be the absence of the mechanism of its realization. Representatives of the right- and left-wings as well as heads of administrations have been talking about this. Do we really have this mechanism of fulfillment of the budget and the plan for 1994?

[Soskovets] During the week after the government session, a group of Presidium members and representatives of regions that were formed to finalize this resolution worked on changes in the nature of this document in order to elaborate those mechanisms that would allow us to realize everything that was said—the president's message and a speech by the government chairman. These proposals that were formulated in this document, as a way to realize those critical remarks, are very specific. Undoubtedly, we believe that the mechanism of fulfillment of this document and this program of reforms that are now at a new stage, is closely connected with the strengthening of the role of the state and discipline, which is necessary for the fulfillment of some certain requests by the state and economic subjects. I believe that at this stage our citizens should consider this as the next stage and the next specific step by the government in order to form a new life in Russia.

[Chernyshova] Oleg Nikolayevich, as far as I understood now, the government has determined its priorities in the development of the economy. Is this true? I mean these sectors that the state will support financially. Observers say that they are afraid that this may lead to a new round of inflation.

[Soskovets] As far as the military-industrial complex is concerned, of course, we will not manage without those capital investments and budget allocations that are now necessary to carry out these reforms in our military industry which, I believe, is very important. Of course, some additional money will be needed, but we will not be able to create all the conditions that are necessary for our Armed Forces without supporting the production of the military-industrial complex. As far as agriculture is concerned, we really need a deep reform there. On the one hand, it takes time and on the other, these losses that we had last year were connected with the fact that there was not enough fuel and lubricants, as well as necessary equipment during the harvesting period.

[Chernyshova] As I understand, you later widened the allocation of money both to the defense industry and agriculture, right?

[Soskovets] According to the principles of budget formation for 1994 regarding these two articles of the budget, we proceeded from the level of expenditure in 1993. I think that these decisions will be justified at this stage. In order to continue with conversion and re-specializing, we need to spend money.

[Chernyshova] The state, represented by the government, keeps emphasizing all the time that the social sphere will be a priority in 1994. When one starts looking at the budget, article-by-article, one realizes that not much money has been allocated to the social sphere in any of them.

[Soskovets] We have not yet abandoned the old principles of management in this sphere. We will use every possibility to insure the implementation of this policy of developing the social sphere. The situation was aggravated by the fact that many social infrastructures that were supported by industrial enterprises now become municipal property, which requires additional expenditure from local budgets. Arrangements will have to be made to support them from the federal budget. All these issues are undoubtedly a weak point of this message. We are working on tidying it all up.

[Chernyshova] You know, it is inconceivable that the government, having made normal and reasonable decisions, allows the situation when none of them is carried out. There is no executive or financial discipline anywhere.

[Soskovets] I think that this is the result of the loss at a certain stage of the capability to manage and the state's participation in the formation of these relations. If you take countries with long-established market relations, there is no division there between the interests of the state and of some kind of economic entity. There is no such thing anywhere. Unfortunately, it happened in our country. I would like to dwell on three examples of the restoration of the necessary discipline in the state. I would, of course, put the discipline with regard to the payment of wages to employees at the top of the list. A resolution describes the degree of responsibility of managers who leave their employees without wages for several months and, of course, the mechanism of forming guarantees for compulsory payment of a certain level of wages in cases when enterprises' bank accounts are affected to a greater or lesser extent by nonpayments.

With regard to financial discipline, I would like to point out that one of the main issues of the day is how to organize tax collection. At present, the system has not yet been perfected by the Finance Ministry, the Tax Inspectorate, or the Tax Police. The Currency Control Committee has put forward specific proposals, envisaging visits to the regions, to individual areas we in the government have already determined, in order to disclose all the irregularities in this matter—this might even lead to contracts being cancelled with those heads of enterprises who had, to some extent, taken advantage of the current lack of state supervision. So, order will be restored in these relations.

The State Committee for the Management of State Property was instructed to draw up a system under which contracts will simply be cancelled with hardened tax dodgers, and new managers will be recruited for those enterprises.

The resolution regulates relations between commercial banks and those enterprises for which they have to provide financial guidance and backing. Numerous examples of delays and mistakes in economic relations show the lack of commitment on the part of commercial banks to the productive activity of enterprises. The Russian Central Bank was asked to draw up a system under which banks like this would lose their license to conduct specified kinds of financial activity.

[Chernyshova] Now probably the final question, Oleg Nikolayevich. You have mentioned the industries the government intends to provide with additional funding. Why then do you say that by the end of the year inflation will be no higher than 10 percent?.

[Soskovets] Well, you know, we...

[Chernyshova, interrupting] After all, you are making the hole in the budget even larger.

[Soskovets] Through our actions, through our actions, we still hope to change the situation with Gross Domestic Product. This should be the starting point. The fact is that the ratio of the budget deficit to the GDP, with such a low volume of production, when dozens of enterprises, that is potential tax-payers, are currently shut down, does not allow one to say that with a significant drop in the GDP, stabilization of the budget deficit can be achieved. Our task today is to step up production at those entities that contribute to the formation of the budget. I believe that if we tackle this task correctly, we will achieve success. For nowhere in the world of developed market economies does a state allow the enterprises that bring the state close to bankruptcy to operate. This then is our task.

[Chernyshova] Thank you.

Scientists Forecast Increased State Grain Exports

LD1403105994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1019 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS observer Aleksandr Dzyublo]

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS—The decision not to import grain this year, announced by President Yeltsin, is based on the estimates of specialists. In the opinion of scientists from the All-Russian Research Institute of the Economic Management of Agriculture, Russia is quite ready for not only stopping grain imports by the state, but also for increasing the exports of its own grain.

Grain imports began in the 60's after the agricultural experiments of Nikita Khrushchev, which ended in failure. Between 1961 and 1965 Russia accounted for about two million tonnes of grain a year out of the grain imported for all the USSR republics. Consequently, the average annual per capita level was 16 kg. However, in

1992 Russia imported 28 million tonnes, or 188 kg per capita. In 1992, the best of the past several years, grain imports accounted for 32 per cent of the domestic grain output.

American farmers were the first to profit from massive Russian grain imports: They got a stable market for their grain, supported by the administration, for decades to come. In addition, grain deliveries from the U.S. were usually made on condition that Russia would pay for the freight of American ships, which transported the grain. U.S. credits for Russia's grain purchases, described as "aid", had to be returned with market interest rates. A considerable part of them were short-term credits. In short, Russia's grain imports were an expensive undertaking for it.

The question arose: Are grain imports really so necessary for Russia? Statistical data show that the amount of grain per capita of the population was continually increasing over the past decade. Last year's per capita level of 538 kg was far greater than 342 kg in the years, when Russia was exporting and not importing grain. Analysing the problem, scientists from the research institute of the economic management of agriculture came to the conclusion that there were two reasons for the growth of grain imports. The most important of them is that the growth of the production and consumption of livestock-breeding products, registered during the past several years, was achieved through the growth of the use of grain as fodder for the stock and the poultry. Grain imports helped to make up for the wasteful use of part of the domestic grain output for fodder purposes. A shortage of high-quality wheat was the second reason for massive grain imports.

In the opinion of Russian scientists, both factors can be eliminated in the near future with the help of corresponding corrections in the economic policy. A considerable, scientifically substantiated reduction of the consumption of fodder grain will become a real way of overcoming grain shortages.

However, the termination of grain imports by the state does not mean that commercial structures will also stop buying grain abroad.

Oil, Gas Industry Performance Data for Jan-Feb

PM1403114794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 Mar 94 p 7

[Report by Natalya Shulyar, chief editor of INFO-TEK news agency: "Will the Switch-Off Effect Work? Fuel and Energy Complex: Two Months' Results"]

[Text] Despite the extremely grave financial crisis, the explosive situation in mining regions, the prestrike situation of the Tyumen oil workers, and the unusually cold February—despite all these factors, Russia's fuel and energy complex is continuing to operate in fairly stable conditions. The reduction in energy resource production volumes is comparable to the rate of decline in 1993.

This is demonstrated by current data on the work of the Russian Ministry of Fuel and Energy for the first two months of this year submitted by sector structures (see table).

The decline in oil extraction, not counting extraction by joint enterprises, corresponds approximately to last year's level—12-14 percent. Among major joint-stock oil companies, "Surgutneftgaz" has seen the smallest reduction (20 percent).

Regarding gas extraction, the picture is more rosy: Some of the decline (0.4 percent) is taking place at the expense of oil extraction associations, whereas the "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company has actually increased extraction slightly in comparison with last year (by 116 million cubic meters). Two associations that are not part of the "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company have increased extraction by even larger amounts—the "Norilskgazprom" state enterprise (by 3 percent) and "Yakutgazprom" (by 12 percent).

During January and February 1994 exports of Russian oil outside the Commonwealth were a few percentage points lower than last year's level, amounting in absolute terms to 11.5 million tonnes (about 20 percent of extraction). Russian gas exports to countries outside the Commonwealth was maintained at last year's level of 17.8 billion cubic meters (or 17 percent of extraction).

Owing to the insolvency of consumers in the former USSR republics, volumes of oil and gas deliveries to these consumers have continued to decline. The former republics' debts for energy resources supplied as of 1 February 1994 were already 2.5 trillion rubles [R], of which R1.5 trillion are owed by Ukraine (including R1.2 trillion for supplies of natural gas), and R390 billion are owed by Belarus (of which R310 billion are for gas).

The overall snowballing of the amount owed by consumers of the fuel and energy complex, which has already passed the R16-trillion mark, is bringing the complex to a standstill. It has no choice but to take the traditional chance that the debtors will pay up, or...shut off the oil spigots and gas valves on the pipes, which is what the "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company has already partially done in relation to Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. It seems that this "incentive" for drawing partners into true market relations is starting to work.

	February actual figure			January-February		
	1994	1993	percent	1994	1993	percent
Extraction of oil and gas condensate million tonnes excluding extraction by joint enterprises	22.5	27.5	81.9	49.8	57.9	86.1

	February actual figure			January-February		
	1994	1993	percent	1994	1993	percent
Extraction of gas billions of cubic meters	51.6	52.1	99.2	108.8	109.2	99.6
Extraction of coal million tonnes	24.3	26.6	91.4	49.0	53.4	91.7
Electricity production according to Ministry of Fuel and Energy, billions of kilowatt hours	71.8	74.6	96.2	146.5	154.0	95.1

Military Issues

Yeltsin Issues Order on Nuclear Forces' Targetting

LD1203115694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1114 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed an order instructing the Russian Defense Ministry to draw up before 30 May 1994 measures to implement the organization of the daily activities of the strategic nuclear forces with nontargeted missiles, the Russian president's press service reports.

The order has been issued for the purpose of implementing the Moscow declaration, which was signed by the Russian and U.S. Presidents on 14 January 1994, and the joint statement of the Russian president and the British prime minister on 15 February 1994.

1994 Arms, Military Procument Volumes Preserved

LD1103203094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1920 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] The volumes of procurements of arms, military equipment, and defense scientific and design developments will be preserved in 1994 in the volumes determined by the government's decision dated last December 21. Interfax has learned that this decision was adopted at a conference chaired by Russia's First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets on Friday. The Finance Ministry was proposed to foresee an appropriate level of military order financing before sending the state budget to the State Duma.

Conference participants pointed out that a sharp reduction of defense orders would result in unrecoverable consequences for the country's defense potential and would necessitate social compensation payments in accordance with the legislature. As participants of the conference note, they will exceed possible economy from the reduction of the defense order planned earlier by Rbs [Rubles] 2-3 Tn [Trillion].

The conference particularly considered the proposal of the First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin on the mechanism to end the crisis in defense enterprises, which also produce civilian products.

Sensitive Exports Procedure Tightened

LD1403102394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0935 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Governent has endorsed the provision on the procedure for controlling the export of certain types of raw materials, materials, equipment, technologies, and scientific and technical information (goods and services of dual application) which could be used for making weapons or military equipment. The procedure for controlling the export of goods and services of dual application, the provision notes, envisions the preparation and the issue of documents authorizing export, together with the licensing and customs documentation.

When concluding export contracts, all economic subjects in the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation irrespective of their forms of ownership must indicate in the text of the contract the final consumers, the reasons for exporting the goods or services, and the commitments of importers to use them only for the stated purposes and not to reexport or transfer them to anyone without written consent.

Yeltsin Forms Commission on Military Ranks

LD1203172094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1230 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—President Yeltsin has issued an executive order on the creation of a commission on top military and special ranks at the Council for Personnel Policy under the Russian president, the press service of the Russian president reports. Yuriy Baturin, the president's aide on national security, was appointed chairman of the commission.

Kaliningrad Oblast Troop Concentrations Denied

MK1203103094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 Mar 94 p 2

[Vladimir Todres report from Kaliningrad under the "Army" rubric: "Servicemen Think They May Not Be Withdrawn From Baltics. Vladimir Shumeyko Succeeds in Weapons Training at Baltic Fleet Base"]

[Text] Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko hit three half-length practice targets with short assault-rifle bursts fired "from the shoulder," thus having attained an officer's performance standard. Deputy Defense Minister Konstantin Kobets has registered the result.

Leaving the firing range in the city of Baltiysk—the main base of the Baltic Fleet—the speaker said that he would oppose the Finance Ministry's attempts to slash the Armed Forces' financing, because "servicemen have no benefits; on the contrary, they receive less than their due."

Local servicemen claim that a recent statement by Polish President Lech Walesa about an overconcentration of troops in Kaliningrad Oblast does not square with reality. Governor Yuriy Matochkin has told SEGODNYA that "around 10 percent of the oblast population have a direct relation to the Armed Forces," that is, around 90,000 people. According to the Baltic fleet staff, there are slightly more than 25,000 men serving in the fleet, although an average crew's strength is only 65 percent of the standard level. The command insists that the personnel has shrunk drastically in the past few years, as has the number of ships.

Vladimir Yegorov, the fleet's commander-in-chief, says that the fleet includes only a few submarines, which are currently being withdrawn from Latvia's Liepaja. Only two of them are operational, and none of them is nuclear, the commander said. "There have never been any nuclear arms in Baltiysk," a press center staffer said.

Officials at the Baltic Fleet staff say the last force to become part of the fleet was a missile boat squadron pulled out from Poland last year. Lieutenant General Anatoliy Pimenov, commander of the 11th Guards Army, which is deployed in the oblast, says that the last time his army was expanded was three years ago, when a motor rifle division withdrawn from Czechoslovakia was attached to it. Afterward, no troops have been redeployed to Russia's Baltic enclave, the servicemen say, while reports on the concentration of the military force have been prompted by foreign observers' mistaking units that pass the oblast on their way from East Europe for new troops.

It is not yet clear, however, how the upcoming merger of the region's two military bases—in Baltiysk and St. Petersburg—under a single command may affect the enclave's military might. Observers do not rule out that troops may be reallocated between the bases, and then new submarines may emerge in Baltiysk.

Oblast Administration chief Yuriy Matochkin, like a number of the Baltic Fleet's top officers, believes that "further reductions in the fleet are inevitable. And considerable ones at that—up to 40 percent." Commander-in-Chief Vladimir Yegorov states firmly, however: "In our view, it cannot be any smaller. And the General Staff agrees."

Admiral on Baltic Fleet Status

WS1103205294 Tallinn BNS in English 1654 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Kaliningrad, Russia, Mar 11, BNS—Chairman of Russia's Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko met yesterday in Kaliningrad with Admiral Vladimir Yegorov, chief of Russia's Baltic Fleet. Yegorov assured that the Baltic Fleet is fully able to protect Russia's interests in the Baltic Sea.

The admiral noted that the fleet comprises 100 warships, including submarine destroyers and landing ships, rocket launches, and some submarines, as well as two flight regiments equipped with SU-24 attack aircraft, two squadrons of antisubmarine helicopters and coast guard forces.

Yegorov said that, in the course of fleet reform over the last two years, submarines carrying strategic nuclear weapons and long-distance aircraft were eliminated.

The number of warships in the Baltic has decreased more than twice since 1984, principally due to scrapping of old vessels. The number of men has also been reduced twice.

Shumeyko, Yegorov and Deputy Defense Minister General Konstantin Kobets visited a naval base in Baltiisk and observed tactical maneuvers at sea.

Shumeyko on Kaliningrad Status

LD1203213794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Video report by T. Aldoshina, including recorded comment by Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Aldoshina] Kaliningrad Oblast will never become a demilitarized zone. This statement was made today by Vladimir Shumeyko, just back from the region.

[Shumeyko] The world is so far organized in such a way that a sovereign state must have an Army. We have one, and it is our business, Russia's business, where this Army is stationed. If we believe it should be in Kaliningrad Oblast, that is how it will be.

[Aldoshina] Shumeyko disagrees strongly with those who say Russian troops are hampering the development of the region's economy. On the contrary: Just three months after the edict on Kaliningrad Oblast was passed, the oblast already has several distinctive features of a free economic zone. Shumeyko believes the time has come to create conditions for competition for the right to work in the oblast, so that entrepreneurs putting their stakes on the opportunities of the free economic zone invest their funds in the construction of port facilities, the development of fishing, and in solving other local problems. At the same time, the status of a free economic zone requires that traditional relations between the center and the oblast should be changed. As early as this spring, a treaty on delimitation of powers is to be signed with Kaliningrad, similar to the one concluded with Tatarstan earlier.

[Shumeyko] We will have to take a very close look at the text of the treaty: How many rights the federal government devolves to the region, and how many it retains; who is accountable to whom and in what way, for the operation of the oblast in the context of Russia as a whole.

[Aldoshina] Kaliningrad Oblast becomes a kind of a testing range for new economic relations. That is why an entire government delegation at the deputy ministers level was working in Kaliningrad alongside Vladimir Shumeyko.

Kaliningrad To Host Military Command Exercises

LD1203172694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] It is planned to hold command staff exercises in Kaliningrad Oblast, ITAR-TASS reports. During the exercises, methods of cooperation between ground forces and the Baltic Fleet will be worked out. A large group of generals and officers of the Russian Defense Ministry have been sent to the region to prepare for the exercises.

In the opinion of Konstantin Kobets, Russia's chief military inspector, it is necessary to check the combat capabilities of the troop structures that previously had powerful rear cover but which are now surrounded by states whose policy toward Russia is not always clear. In his opinion, the group of forces in the region should reliably ensure the defense of Russia's western borders.

Tatar Center Helps 'Deserters' Escape Draft

PM1403114194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Mar 94 p 3

[Nail Gafutulin report: "Certificates That Have Put Deserters in Prison"]

[Text] Samara—A lot of ways have been thought up of avoiding the service draft All of these ways are illegal and punishable. That is clear to everyone. But, it turns out, there are whole organizations which aspire to the role....

However, judge for yourselves what role they actually play in the final analysis.

Practically every day, young men of draft age and deserters from Russian subunits appeal to the Committee for the Protection of Servicemen at the All-Tatar Public Center [ATPC], submitting statements renouncing Russian citizenship and expressing the wish to serve in the National Guard of Tatarstan. Here they become the owners of certificates which, according to the ATPC leadership, replace passports; the passports remain at the military commissariats. On their military card draftees get an "Azatlyk" youth organization stamp certifying that they have been drafted into the Guard.

"The ATPC is deceiving people," according to Colonel of Justice Aleksandr Fadeyev, military prosecutor at the Kazan Garrison.

The deserters are promised the moon. They are told that they are being taken under the organization's protection, but in the end.... In actual fact, there is no legal foundation for this. A draftee is reassured, although in fact he is "on the run." And severe punishment still awaits him as a result.

Today fewer and fewer people trust the ATPC. No doubt the fact that criminal proceedings have twice been instituted against the organization's chairman-coordinator Z. Agliullin has had an effect. The first time it was for whipping up interethnic strife, the second for keeping firearms. But the main reason seems to lie elsewhere. Time has started to put the numerous organizations, unions, and parties which emerged following the collapse of the Union in their place. People who at first blindly believed the promises are now demanding action. But there is no action at the ATPC committee for the protection of servicemen and draftees.

Progress of Military Reform Assessed

PM1103143594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Oleg Falichev: "Continuation of the Military Reforms Is a Priority State Task"]

[Text] As is known, any reform, no matter where it is carried out, is a pretty complex process, and painful as well. Our ailing economy is graphic confirmation of this. But how are the reforms progressing in the armed forces? What problems are cropping up? Finally, what is the country's top leadership's assessment of them?

The president recently delivered a message to parliament "On Strengthening the Russian State." A whole section of it is devoted to an analysis and assessment of the reforms in the Army, to what the Armed Forces are to be like in the immediate future. What is the situation?

The reforms in the Army and Navy are going according to plan: in line with the blueprint for the organizational development of the Armed Forces devised by the Defense Ministry, the Law "On Defense," and the defense minister's order. Since 7 May 1992—following the president's edict on the creation of the Russian Army—11 basic laws regulating the activities of the Armed Forces in the Russian Federation security system and more than 100 normative legal acts have been devised and adopted. Parliament has ratified 14 international treaties and agreements in the military policy sphere.

As is known, the organizational development of the Armed Forces has been mapped out in three stages. The first ended in 1992. Its tasks have been resolved. The decline in the level of combat readiness has been halted. Approaches to the creation of groupings of forces and general-purpose forces have been revised. The formation of new groupings has been started in connection with the changes in state borders—which applies primarily to the Moscow and North Caucasus Military Districts.

Not everything has gone as smoothly as one would have liked, perhaps. At one stage it was necessary to adjust certain provisions of the blueprint for the organizational evolution of the Army, in particular those connected with the prospects for its development. The General Staff conducted a careful analysis and adjustment of the Armed Forces personnel in 1994-1995. Not surprisingly, since the reform began the authorized strength has been cut by nearly half a million men (457,000). Three military district directorates, eight Army directorates, one Army corps directorate, 19 divisional directorates, and eight military schools have been disbanded. The process of reducing the number of formations and combined units and higher educational establishments, scientific research institutions, and redundant and parallel management organs continues. The tasks the Army was set for this period were implemented by and large, Colonel General V. Zhurbenko, first deputy chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, believes. The reforms in the Armed Forces have gone according to plan.

What now? What can one expect in military policy in the immediate future? Before answering these questions let us stress that the president categorized the further reform of the Armed Forces as a priority state task.

"The content of the message gives some confidence that the correct reform path has been chosen," Lieutenant General G. Ivanov, chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Military Organizational Development and Reforms Directorate, believes. "The message lays down the main guidelines for the organizational development of the Armed Forces and provides an assessment of the actual state of the forces: They are battleworthy. We saw this assessment as a confirmation of the correctness of the chosen course of army development and improvement."

The basic structure of the Armed Forces is clearly going to be preserved until 1996. But if we are talking about future reforms, then the entire complexion of the Armed Forces is probably going to be fundamentally transformed. Which will also affect the operational and strategic levels. Depending on the country's economic potential, of course.

What new contours are discernible right now in the structural makeup of the Armed Forces? Let us examine just some of the components.

Strategic Armed Forces. An analysis of the status of the Russian Armed Forces showed that in present-day conditions the Strategic Nuclear Forces have been and remain the real guarantor of Russia's security in the military sphere. This was confirmed in the president's message. It is enshrined in the military doctrine and in the blueprint for the organizational development of the Army and Navy.

General-Purpose Forces. The nature of Russia's geopolitical position and the reduction of the numerical strength of the Armed Forces demonstrate that it is impossible to have a grouping of forces along the entire length of the border, as was the case before. So their organizational development is based on the principle of mobile defense. Its implementation presupposes the availability of small but sufficiently powerful forces, ready for operational employment wherever a real threat to Russia's security occurs. Mobile forces are being created that are operationally maneuverable and capable of tackling tasks in various regions.

Military-Technical Policy. The priorities here include maintaining nuclear security; equipping mobile forces; providing the Army and Navy with modern means of battle command and control, communications, intelligence, and electronic warfare; and improving their reliability and survivability.

The Military Law Base. The entire legal foundation of the organizational development and activity of the Armed Forces has to be brought in line with the Constitution and basic provisions of the Russian Federation's military doctrine. Proposals have been prepared on adjusting existing laws in the defense sphere, and around 20 new draft laws will need adopting. In particular, "On Martial Law," "On the Military Police," and "On Naval Vessels." The plan is to give military lawyers the job of providing legal protection for Armed Forces servicemen and civilian personnel. To that end the possibility of creating a body of military lawyers, which we have never had before, is being considered. In other words law, above all, must replace ideology in the Armed Forces. The plan is to complete the elaboration of a blueprint for military law reform by mid-1994.

As for the military budget, it has not yet been approved for 1994, unfortunately. Although the Defense Ministry has made all the necessary calculations and they have been submitted to the Russian Federation Finance Ministry and Economy Ministry. The fact is that until very recently the country did not even have a general budget. So financing will be on a month-to-month basis.

"Certainly we are not getting everything we need by any means," Major General V. Burov, chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Main Military Budget and Financing Directorate Economic Directorate, said. "In January we only managed to provide pay and allowances and wages and tackle urgent tasks. The situation was the same in February. It is clearly not going to be any better in March...."

Nonetheless, the president's message does give some cause for optimism. When he delivered it he made it plain that military expenditure is not expenditure on war. This money is used to finance a substantial section of our science, to construct housing for "homeless officers," and to maintain our children serving in the Armed Forces.

Today the Armed Forces embark on the second stage of their reform, which will be completed in 1995. I believe that its tasks will be resolved, despite the complex economic situation in the country. The guarantor of this is the state itself, in which the Army remains a very important factor not only of external security but also of the stability of our society.

Federal Assembly

Poltoranin Calls for Civil Peace Accord Committment

LD1103200094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1836 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—"The president, the Federal Assembly and the Government must clearly outline their commitments in a memorandum on civil peace. We would not like it to turn into a mere declaration," said Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the Duma Committee for Informational Politics, during debates on legislative activities held in the lower house of the Russian Parliament.

Poltoranin cautioned lawmakers against including into the memorandum the notion of "confronting forces". Poltoranin described today's Russia as "a raft swiftly carried away by the stream to a huge waterfall." "We most row together in order to reach a safe spot," he said.

He believes that the president and the Government must offer anti-crisis measures which would be adopted by all, parliament included. For its part, the State Duma must adopt a package of legislative acts which would ensure full implementation of these measures, he added.

Poltoranin believes that definite guarantees must be given both by the judicial power and public organisations, including trade unions, which "should not shake Russia with strikes," as he put it. Poltoranin urged journalists to undertake commitments to objectively cover the activities of all branches of power and processes which take place in Russia.

Duma Speaker Rybkin Calls For Political Unity

LD1103130894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1139 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Speaker of the Lower House of Russian Parliament, or the Duma, Ivan Rybkin, has called for unity among all political forces and power structures in their efforts to strengthen the Russian state. Rybkin was speaking Friday at a plenary sitting the Duma held to discuss President Yeltsin's address to parliament.

In Rybkin's view, Yeltsin had summed up the results of two years of destruction, rash moves and sacrifice and by his words proved he had come to realize it was about time for Russia to stop seeking foreign advice and live, instead, in conformity with its national characteristics, relying on its own forces.

Ivan Rybkin suggested that the lawmakers uphold Yeltsin's call for increased political responsibility for civic peace in Russia and that they sign an appropriate formal declaration to confirm this at the upcoming All-Russian Congress of Political Parties and Movements.

To make the Duma's legislative moves more effective, Ivan Rybkin suggested changes in the legislative procedures. He said a number of parliamentary factions, including the Liberal Democrats, felt each and all of the Duma's committees must be turned into a kind of micro-parliament whose job it would be to discuss and coordinate, with the factions, all amendments to existing legislation. The Duma would then meet in plenary sittings only to vote but not to discuss new bills.

In the speaker's view, what the factions were calling for, would, in fact, speed up the lawmaking process. And, Rybkin felt, work on concrete bills would divert the lawmakers' attention from purely political matters.

Duma Fails To Adopt Document on Yeltsin Message

LD1103202694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1920 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] The State Duma's plenary session on Friday was focused on a discussion of the Russian president's message to the Federal Assembly "On the Strengthening of the Russian State." However, no final document was adopted.

State Duma's First Deputy Speaker, Mikhail Mityukov, who chaired the session, proposed to vote for continuation of the session's work after its time had expired (at 18:00). However, the majority of deputies rejected the proposal.

The final document may be adopted at the State Duma's next plenary session on March 16 Wednesday.

Duma Security Head Against Security Reform

LD1103180494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1426 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] The Chairman of the Duma's Security Committee Viktor Ilyukhin feels plans to transform the former Security Ministry into a Federal Counterintelligence Service are detrimental to both the security service and national security as such. Ilyukhin explained this view in a letter to Secretary Oleg Lobov of the National Security Council.

According to Ilyukhin, the decision to transform the Federal Counterintelligence Service from a government body into an agency under the direct supervision of President Yeltsin, contradicts the state Constitution. It takes the service, as well as the president's personal protection troops, out of the prosecutor's reach and makes it uncontrollable from the point of view of court and other authorities; and this, says Ilyukhin, may do great damage to the nation, as it already did in the 30s.

On the other hand, the division of what used to be the service's closely-knit system of regional administrations and the move to curtail the administrations' legal rights will reduce the service's effectiveness and hinder efforts to protect the Russian interests now that special services of other countries have stepped up action both along the whole length of the Russian borders and inside this country, believes Ilyukhin.

Ilyukhin opposes the decision to deprive the service of the right to conduct legal inquiries and have investigation cells. That decision is sure to make the service helpless and incapable of exposing spies and turncoats, he believes.

Ilyukhin says that until very recently the security services and the Ministry of Internal Affairs had been balancing or counterweighing each other's efforts.

Now, says the chairman of the Duma's Security Committee, moves have been made to upset that balance. The excessive authority buildup on the part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as the repeated moves to increase the numerical strength of the internal troops and riot police units with the adoption, by these, of weapons under army tables of organization, creates dangerous preconditions for the emergence of a powerful monster capable of defying the mechanisms of government control and carrying out any kind of anti- constitutional action. Unfortunately, something of the kind already happened in Russia.

Ilyukhin hopes the Secretary of the National Security Council understands the problem and will take, together with the parliamentary committee, appropriate concrete actions.

Regional Affairs

Chernomyrdin Visits Nizhniy Novgorod

PM1403115994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 94 First Edition p 3

[Report by correspondent Andrey Shishov: "Nizhniy Novgorod Inhabitants Share Experience"]

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod—The Nizhniy Novgorod model for transforming the Russian countryside should become a national program for the resurrection of the Russian peasantry. This was stated by Viktor Chernomyrdin, prime minister of the Russian Federation Government, at a conference of heads of administration of the components of the Federation at the collective farm named for Kuybyshev in Gorodetskiy Rayon, Nizhniy Novgorod oblast. Before the conference the prime minister, who had arrived in Nizhniy Novgorod for a one-day visit, had taken part in a land auction at the collective farm named for the 60th anniversary October.

With the aid of experts from an international financial corporation who in conjunction with Russian specialists have developed an auction model for handing over public property into private hands, the collective farm members divided it among themselves into eight partnerships. Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov called this auction the third attempt in Russian history, after Aleksandr II and Petr Stolypin, to turn the peasants into strong private farmers. There is already experience of the similar disbandment of two farms on Nizhniy Novgorod land—the "Pravdinskoye" and "Niva" farms in which auctions were held earlier.

The participants who spoke at the conference stressed that without the comprehensive solution of problems of the countryside the reform could be suspended because under the present conditions of poor roads, lack of money, and obsolete equipment it is simply senseless to count on a swift and effective return from the agro-industrial complex.

Roundup of Local Elections

LD1403100494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0620 GMT 14 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Perkina]

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS—Elections to the Federal Assembly and the local representative bodies of power took place last Sunday in a number of Russia's regions.

This time more than half of the adult population came to the polls in Tatarstan, where the elections to the Federal Assembly were held again after the failure of December 12. On the eve of the elections President Mintimer Shaymiyev said that the republic had radically changed the political course. After the signing of the intergovernmental treaty with Russia, the people of Tatarstan decided to send their representatives to the federal parliament.

Preliminary results will probably become known today, while the official results will be announced on Tuesday, a spokesman for the elections headquarters told ITAR-TASS.

A little more than 37 per cent of electors came to the polling stations in Chuvashia. This figure reflects a tremendous difference in opinions, Chairman of the Republican Electoral Commission Anatoliy Ukhtiyarov believes. In a number of rural areas some 75 per cent of the adult population took part in the voting, while in Cheboksary the figure was 19 per cent, and in Novocheboksarsk even less than that. Thus, even before the preliminary results are announced, it is clear that repeated elections will be held in Chuvashia late in March. The struggle will be continued by the candidates who win the first and the second place. Today it will be known whether or not the rural areas of the republic managed to elect deputies in their constituencies with the first attempt.

It is obvious now that the elections to the regional and city dumas were a success in the Kostroma region. Most constituencies managed to exceed the "25 per cent plus one" limit. In the evening it became clear that more than one third of the electors agree with the need to form new bodies of power to replace the soviets.

Along with elections to the Duma, Kostroma became the first city in Russia to hold a referendum on the "city constitution," which is a kind of local government regulations. For the Constitution to become valid, it should have been supported by 50 per cent of Kostroma residents. However, only 25 per cent of the city residents came to the polling stations, and the referendum actually did not take place.

Elections to the territorial legislative assembly and local government bodies failed to attract the needed number of electors in the Altay region. According to the preliminary results, received by ITAR-TASS at the regional electoral commission, 36.8 per cent of officially registered electors took part in the voting.

Fifty candidates were vying for 15 seats in the legislative assembly of the Jewish autonomous region. The results show that the elections did take place in 12 constituencies. According to local government regulations, the assembly will be given the status of a local legislative authority, Chairman of the Regional Electoral Commission Yakov Sherman told ITAR-TASS. In three constituencies of Birobidzhan, where less than 25 per cent of electors turned up, repeated elections will be held.

Birobidzhan March 14 TASS—By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Gorelkin—The 12 seats in the legislative assembly of the Jewish region were distributed in the following way: Four went to heads of local administrations, six—to senior officials of industrial enterprises, one—to a medic and one to an economist.

An electoral campaign is going on in other Russian cities. It entered a decisive stage in the Novgorod region, where elections to the duma will be held on March 27. 143 candidates will vie for 27 seats. It will not be easy for residents of the Novgorod region to make a choice. This is also true of residents of the Novosibirsk region. However, according to the results of public opinion polls, only 40 per cent of them are going to take part in the voting on March 27 during the elections to the regional Council of Deputies.

So far as the Chechen Republic (Chechnya) is concerned, its authorities refuse so much as to discuss elections and are very far from holding them. Movladiy Udugov, head of the information and press department of the republic, said laconically in a telephone interview with ITAR-TASS: "I know elections are taking place in some regions of Russia. As for us, we are getting prepared for the end of the Uraza celebrations." According to Udugov, Chechnya is more concerned now over the growing number of the acts of subversion and provocations, obviously aimed at again destabilising the situation in the republic.

Khabarovsk March 14 TASS—Elections, held on Sunday in the Khabarovsk region, revealed the names of 18 out of 25 deputies to the regional duma. Two thirds of the duma have been elected, and the new representative authority will soon start functioning.

Candidates from the democratic choice bloc again suffered a crushing defeat. Only one of fifteen candidates was elected to the regional duma. Members of the Communist Party did not win the support of electors either. They will also have only one representative in the duma. Most deputies are industrial managers of various levels, as well as heads of local administrations, lawyers and servicemen. As a rule, they were all nominated by groups of electors.

"On the whole, the results of the elections may be described as positive," Viktor Tsirfa, chairman of the regional electoral commission, told ITAR-TASS. "The defeat of the Democratic Choice, of other political parties and movements, can hardly be regarded as accidental. People are tired of confrontation, of the endless settlement of scores. I think, a large number of heads of state enterprises and business structures, elected to the duma, will make it possible for the new authority to work in a constructive way. In seven constituencies, where less than 25 per cent of electors came to the polls, or where most electors crossed out the names of all candidates, repeated elections will be held next autumn."

Poor Nizhnevartovsk Turnout

LD1303223394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] The inhabitants of Nizhnevartovsk, Siberian oilmen's largest city, have declined to elect deputies to the City Duma and the Duma of the Khantiy-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug [of Tyumen Oblast]. As RIA was informed at the City Electoral Commission, because of the failure of voters to turn out, the 6 March elections are recognized to have taken place in only one of the electoral districts of Nizhnevartovsk. As a result, only one deputy has been elected to the City Duma.

Low Turnout in Yamalo-Nenetsk

PM1103170194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Mar 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Nikolay Dudnikov: "No Quorum"]

[Text] Salekhard—The fate of the elections to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly and local organs of power in Yamalo-Nenetsk Autonomous Okrug hung by a thread. By 1700 hours on 6 March only 23.8 percent of the total electorate had voted.

Gasworkers, oilworkers, fishermen, and hunters had not gone to the voting stations, because they had been sitting waiting for their pay for a long time.

In order to save the situation, the organizers of the campaign were forced to bring into play various methods of influencing voters. Appeals were repeatedly broadcast on okrug radio, while in some places they actually traveled to healthy people's homes with the ballot boxes. Although, as is known, in former times this practice was reserved for invalids and the sick.

So the final total for the number of voters rose to 28.7 percent, which was enough to declare the elections valid.

Of the six contenders for the Federation Council, Okrug Administration Head Yu.V. Neyelov won by a large margin.

Two well-known people in Yamal made it to the okrug parliament: Vasiliy Tikhonovich Podshibyakin, general director of the geological association, and Kh.M. Yezengi, president of the "Yamal For Future Generations" association. But one seat in the okrug Duma remains vacant. This means there can be no quorum. So, in all likelihood, Yamal can expect yet another election.

Kalmyk President: Constitution To Be Abolished

LD1103222494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Bessarabov]

[Text] Elista March 11 TASS—"The Constitution of the Kalmyk Republic will be abolished, we recognize the Russian Constitution as the only valid one on Kalmyk territory. We will also abandon the Kalmyk citizenship, Russia should have Russian citizenship," Kalmyk President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov told a parliament meeting here today.

"Russia is single and indivisible. Its revival is impossible without the revival of national provinces and the revival of provinces is impossible without the revival of the whole state," he stressed.

Ilyumzhinov suggested to terminate the validity of the Kalmyk Constitution on March 25 and form a delegation to meet Russian President Yeltsin. He wants to ask "the president for an instrument of ratification to give him or another official the power to be named president, governor or head of the republic for five-ten years. The decision is up to the Russian president".

Statement Protested

LD1203154294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1131 GMT 12 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Bessarabov]

[Excerpts] Elista March 12 TASS—Participants in a spontaneous protest meeting, which is now under way in Elista, capital of Kalmykia, are expressing disagreement with the recent statements of the Kalmyk president on the elimination of the republican Constitution. [passage omitted]

Commenting on [Kalmyk President] Ilyumzhinov's statement in an ITAR-TASS interview, David Kugultinov, a popular Kalmyk poet and chairman of the Council of Elders at the president, described it as an "ill-considered step." "One should at least consult the people and find out their opinion, before taking such an important decision. By all appearances, the suggestion of our leader came as a result of instability in Russia, as well as in its leadership. I do not think that Kalmykia will turn into an out-of-the-way place, if it loses its status of a republic and its Constitution. But it will lose the energy of statehood, which has been and continues to be a source of hope for all those who live on its territory. Haste has never done any good to anybody, and I am sure the Kalmyk people will realise it and will not support their president," Kugultinov said.

Chechen Foreign Minister Resigns in Protest

LD1103193794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1738 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Chechen Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yusef said at a press conference in Groznyy on Friday that he could not work in the Foreign Ministry due to the conditions there and was going to resign.

According to him, the resignation was due to the fact that a foreign ministry's official laid off because he had worked for seven years for the KGB had been reinstated by Chechen President Johar Dudayev.

However, observers said the real reason for the resignation was the government's resolution on significant reduction in the number of the foreign ministry's personnel (up to 14 people).

North Ossetia May Lift Emergency Rule

MK1203111094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 12 Mar 94 p 5

[Dmitriy Kamyshev report: "Situation in North Caucasus. North Ossetian Parliament May Lift State of Emergency Rule"]

[Text] Tensions in the area of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict may begin ratcheting up in the very near future. KOMMERSANT-DAILY learned yesterday that some deputies of the North Ossetian parliament expressed no-confidence in the Provisional Administration of the State of Emergency Area and proposed that the state of emergency rule on the republic's territory not be extended. If this decision is made, Moscow will lose the possibility to contain the conflict by force, and the situation may consequently spin out of the federal authorities' control.

The North Ossetian authorities' support for the Provisional Administration has until recently been a very significant and necessary factor for Moscow, particularly after Ingush President Ruslan Aushev accused Provisional Administration chief Vladimir Lozovoy in January of deliberately trying to thwart the implementation of the Russian president's December edict on the return of Ingush refugees; Aushev also demanded that Lozovoy be removed from office. Now North Ossetian politicians, too, have expressed no-confidence in the Provisional Administration, claiming that it is unable to bring order and security to the state of emergency area. In this situation Vladimir Lozovoy's very presence in the state of emergency area is becoming nonsensical, because the presidential and government decisions on conflict settlement simply cannot be implemented without close contacts with the local authorities.

What poses a much greater danger is the proposal by some North Ossetian Supreme Soviet deputies not to extend the state of emergency rule, which will expire on 31 March, because, in their view, it has proved ineffective. This decision, if adopted, may spark the resumption of the armed conflict in its initial, most bloody version. Given that none of the earlier agreements and decrees on the return of refugees have been complied with, the troops deployed in the state of emergency area operate as a containment force: Their very presence is cooling down somewhat the "hotheads" who call on the Ingush to return to their land in Prigorodnyy Rayon regardless of the consequences. If these forces are withdrawn from the region, even Ruslan Aushev's high authority will be not enough to keep the refugees from returning on their own and to avert the possible bloodshed.

Moscow may buy time, however, if it agrees with the Ingush and Ossetian demands to replace the Provisional Administration chief. In this event the two sides will need some time to assess the activity of a new person and to draw corresponding conclusions, whereas the Russian authorities may use the respite to prepare new initiatives to settle the conflict.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Holds News Conference on Results of U.S. Visit

LD1103230894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1258 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Opening statement at news conference by Ukrainian President Leonid Krachuk in Kiev on 11 March—live]

[Text] [Unidentified moderator] Ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor to open this news conference by President Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk on the results of his official visit to the United States from 3 to 7 March. Before he answers your questions, Leonid Makarovych wishes to make an introductory address.

[Kravchuk] First of all, I can only focus attention on certain fundamental issues because the visit was basically covered both in our and foreign media, and its results were outlined in the news conference by the Presidents of the United States and Ukraine, as well as at the summing-up news conference in New York. But I suppose there is a need to draw attention to certain issues.

I think this visit—this official visit, as it is described in the media as well as in the United States and Ukrainian protocols, although there were attempts to call it a working visit, depending on whose definition it is, and according to the protocol definition it is an official visit by the president of Ukraine to the United States—is a logical conclusion to a rather important stage in the ongoing process of forming the political and the legal-contractual foundations of inter-state relations between the United States and Ukraine. I believe this visit took place in an atmosphere of notable positive breakthroughs in Washington's lengthy but active rethinking of its concept regarding relations with Ukraine. It allowed us to proceed to the more substantive practical implementation of the democratic partnership proclaimed during the visit in May 1992, and to fill it with more specific content.

The talks and negotiations that were held with President Clinton, Vice President Gore, Secretary of State Christopher, Secretary of Defense Perry, the heads of the Departments of Finance and Trade, and with other top officials of the U.S. administration, as well as in the Congress and at the Pentagon, proved that the relations between our countries are ascending to a qualitatively new level. There has been a change in relations between the United States and Ukraine to relations between two friendly countries called to play an important role, a strategic role, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. In any event Ukraine's role is thus evaluated in the long-term strategic political plans of the United States, as I understood it.

Of no less importance is the implementation of our approach to balancing the context of bilateral relations by displacing—this is very important—the accent from the problems of Ukraine's nuclear (?armament) to other spheres of cooperation. The fact that the American side has adopted namely such a course confirms the correctness of our principled position from this aspect, too.

The signing of a whole package of interstate documents during the visit, which determine the fundamental principles and directions of bilateral relations for the nearest future in political, economic, scientific-technical, and cultural spheres, creates an important basis for giving Ukrainian-American cooperation more substance and a more mutually advantageous direction.

If one is to take the most important political result of the visit, one may consider, first, the fact that the United States unreservedly—and this is very important—confirmed support for Ukraine's striving to consolidate its political and economic independence, and the greater awareness of the potentially increasing role of Ukraine in the development of evolutionary social and political processes, both in the CIS region and in Europe as a whole.

Next, the United States has realized to a greater degree the existence of a stable, economically strong, and democratic Ukrainian state, that its territorial integrity and security conform to the interests of the United States, and that Ukraine's loss of political independence could upset the existing strategic balance in Europe and the entire world, leading to unpredictable consequences. Thus, we can say that in the period since 1991 certain strategic balances have taken shape in Europe, and any unexpected development in any state, first of all a state like Ukraine as our primary concern, could lead to an imbalance. This is being increasingly realized both in the United States and in Europe.

Next, the United States has expressed readiness to grant additional financial aid to Ukraine. You know the figures. However, it is important for me to emphasize one aspect, namely that the United States has assumed a leading role in the mobilization of additional multilateral aid within the framework of the G-7 in order to support the reform program in Ukraine. This was mentioned by the President of the United States.

Another very important aspect is that we have agreed to work on the removal of barriers to trade and investments in order to enlarge access to the two countries' markets. In March, the benefits within the Generalized System of Preferences will be extended to Ukraine, which will open opportunities for more active access to the U.S. commodity market. Incidentally, today I met representatives of the European Union and we also suggested that the European market and the European Union consider Ukraine's proposals to this effect after Ukraine signs, soon I hope, the partnership and cooperation agreement with the European Union, which is to be initialled in the near future, some time in March.

We also reached an agreement, and I attach great importance to this, about attracting more active private investment to Ukraine. I held meetings at the Overseas Private

Investment Corporation in the United States with representatives of large companies in New York, and I can tell you that the emphasis was on the United States' economic aid to Ukraine and support for private companies' capital investments in Ukraine, given of course certain legislative support on the part of Ukraine. The results of the visit also create real opportunities for the establishment of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in the sphere of science and technology and joint space research. There are relevant agreements on all of these issues.

If one looks at it from the summing-up point of view, one can say that there are considerable positive breakthroughs both in Washington's philosophy and conceptual approaches toward the establishment of relations between the United States and Ukraine, in terms of pursuing a more balanced and realistic policy that will embrace political, economic, scientific, technical, and humanitarian cooperation, that is, practically all areas. One can state already now that the crucial factor in these breakthroughs was Ukraine's consistent, moderate, and balanced stance in the rather intensive political dialogue at all levels, both with the United States and with Russia, which made it possible to sign the trilateral statement called to maintain the necessary balance in relations between the United States, Russia, and Ukraine. I think it has become clear to all that the signing of the trilateral agreement was a decisive stage in the present development of relations between Ukraine and the United States, and between Ukraine and Russia.

The visit made it possible to consolidate the positive trends that had begun to take tangible shape in the bilateral relations and channel them in a direction more consistent with our political and economic priorities. I believe they are also consistent with the aims of both the Western states and Russia.

The present steps of the Ukrainian Government must be aimed at working out as soon as possible all the mechanisms regarding the solving and implementation of the problems and agreements that were signed. First of all, we need to ratify two documents, one is the agreement on encouragement and mutual protection of investments, and the other is the convention on the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion in respect of income and capital tax. These documents must be ratified.

It is very important to resolve, within the shortest possible period of time, and we are working on it now, the issue of setting up a bilateral commission for assistance to trade and investment that we agreed to form, and a commission for assistance to joint activities in the sphere of high technology, scientific research, and development. We have instructed our National Space Agency to hold, in the near future, a meeting of the two countries' experts to examine specific issues and spheres of cooperation in space research in order to sign a respective intergovernmental agreement.

The work conducted during and before the visit with international financial organizations, particularly, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, was very important. This work is now at the completion stage, its specific sections have been worked out, and now the entire program must be finalized. It is a program based on Ukraine's real possibilities, and on our political will to pursue consistent market economic reforms which is our most important task and to which we see no alternative today. We have instructed our Foreign Affairs Ministry to continue consultations with the United States and other G-7 countries in order to mobilize international financial aid to speed up the economic processes and reforms in Ukraine that are taking place and should be more intensive.

Thus, one can say without exaggeration that the official visit by the president of Ukraine and the Ukrainian delegation to the United States is a very important stage in the development of bilateral and multilateral relations, and in determining a more clear political role for Ukraine as a European state. I think this visit will enable us to place the right emphasis in our relations, our policy, and our perspective. I am now ready to answer your questions.

Kravchuk Answers Questions

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[Question-and-answer portion of news conference by Ukrainian President Leonid Krachuk in Kiev on 11 March—live]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Danylo [surname indistinct], for the journals PHILOSOPHICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL THOUGHT and EASTERN ECONOMIST. Esteemed Mr. President, you have just returned from an official visit to the United States. But there is no official information as to your meeting on Sunday night in New York with the management of the J.P. Morgan Group; for example there is not a word on that in this press release. The group's spokespersons did not confirm the report that you were there as a private person. I would like to ask you, in this connection, whether you could give official information as to specifically who you spoke to, what the subject and the results of the meeting were, and how it will help the state you have the honor to be head of.

[Kravchuk] I already said that I held many meetings with corporations, there was a meeting at the OPIC [Overseas Private Investment Corporation], a meeting with a group of businessmen led and organized by the Fund for Assistance to Ukraine's Independence, and a meeting with the United States' largest corporations, such as Johnson and Johnson, Pepsico, and other very large companies. And all the discussions that concerned our meetings were conducted along the lines of encouraging investment in Ukraine. As reported in the U.S. and other press by such people as the president of OPIC, they gave figures that these corporations could invest considerable funds in Ukraine that amount to billions of dollars, and that OPIC takes upon itself the task of insuring these [investments] and other things.

That is to say that there were no secrets during the meetings. As regards the fact that something might not have been reported in greater detail, the president does not have private meetings. This is obvious. There were no secrets because as a rule correspondents were present at all of these meetings and they were reported. Perhaps we did not receive something. This is another matter. We reached an agreement with this body that specific instructions would be issued after the meeting with our Foreign Economic Relations Ministry and other corresponding structures that would elaborate official documents with regard to this large company participating in investment in Ukraine. This was the main task.

[Unidentified correspondent] Esteemed Leonid Makarovych. You often speak about the political consequences and bilateral relations. You have just mentioned that the official visit to the United States also had an influence on multilateral relations with regard to our state. Please comment on Russia's reaction to the success of your visit.

[Kravchuk] I would like you to take into account a minor matter. There is the reaction from Russia and there is the reaction from Russia's mass media. Russia's reaction is the reaction of the president, the prime minister, and corresponding structures. Regarding the reaction of the mass media, then this is not a Russian reaction. As they say in Odessa, these are two different things.

It seemed to me that the Russian mass media still regard themselves as the central newspapers, as it used to be under the USSR when they were divided according to rank: central, republican, and local newspapers. They have not yet become accustomed to the fact that they are Russian [newspapers]. They consider themselves to be central. If they are central then this gives them the right to be scathing about anybody, in particular within the framework of the CIS. Regarding how they do this and what terminology and methods they use, then this is not my misfortune but the misfortune of those who write about it and is evidence of their culture and diplomatic status. This is what I think. I think it is improper for me to comment on articles in the mass media. This is a matter for you.

[Correspondent Lelytska] Lelytska, press service of the Congress of National Democratic Forces of Ukraine. Esteemed Mr. President. Could the change in U.S. policy toward Ukraine be interpreted as though Ukraine is already emerging from Russia's sphere of influence; and the second question, Yuriy Meshkov, the newly-appointed president of Crimea, is dismissing Ukrainian journalists, and is also reducing Ukrainian TV and radio. Will there be an official reaction from Kiev? Thank you.

[Kravchuk] I would like to stress something that I have often spoken about and stressed. Ukraine's relations with Russia have a special status. We never—in any case I, as president, and the government—spoken about reducing or lowering the status or in some way reviewing our conceptual relations with Russia. They could be friendly and based on partnership, and I am convinced that will be the case, irrespective of the fact of how events will develop. History leaves us with no other option. We may only talk about how official Moscow and official Kiev are considering these relations. We consider them to be equal, friendly and based on partnership. I think that is how official Moscow considers them to be and indeed how it should consider them to be.

Regarding unofficial structures that exist in Russia, and incidentally they also exist in Ukraine, they may interpret them as they please. But this interpretation should only be accepted as a basis for further discussion and analysis. But this is not the official position of Kiev nor of Moscow. There should be an appropriate rank and status for these assessments and interpretations. For this reason we are not setting a task that Ukraine now-...[pauses] You said that it is under the influence of Russia. I would like this to be a mutual influence: Russian influence on democratic process in Ukraine and Ukrainian influence on democratic processes in Russia. If that is how the issue were to be put, and if we all understood it to be the case then it would be to Russia's and Ukraine's benefit. I am deeply convinced of this. There is no other alternative for us. Russia is a great state, this is a real historic fact and it has its own long-term interests, including in Europe and in Ukraine. And for it to suddenly lose its...[pauses] It is simply impossible for me, as the president of Ukraine, to interfere with Russia's long-term interests. I can only hope that these Russian interests and influences in Ukraine are positive, that this influences democratic reform, market reform, stability, partnership, and friendship. If this is the kind of policy then it has a sense and good results, but if it is otherwise then it is dangerous.

That is why our relations with the United States are not a counterbalance to relations with Russia. I would like this to be understood by everyone. Many people simply do not want to think about this. I read the Russian mass media and it is somewhat painful to read this when they do not understand simple matters. We never said that we wanted to cooperate normally with somebody to harm Russia. The contrary is true. I have become convinced that the United States is most interested in peace and accord between Russia and Ukraine. The United States is most interested in this. But their interest depends on our policies and on how we understand this in Ukraine, Kiev and Moscow. If we understand that we are partners, that we are historically doomed to be partners in friendship, then this corresponds to the long-term strategic interests of both Europe and the world. Unfortunately, I cannot say today that everybody understands it in this way.

Well, I hope this is a formative period for the new authorities in Crimea and its new power institutions. We know from the first experience of establishing, for example, presidential structures that paved their way for the first time in our land and in the lands of the former Soviet Union, that these are painful processes. Sometimes, people pursuing this policy do not reckon with the real situation. I would not like this kind of start, and we will protect the interests of not only the media in Crimea, but the interests of all the people in Crimea, their rights and freedoms. This accords with our Constitution and our strategic political [word indistinct].

[Correspondent Heorhiy Chornomorskyy, in Russian] [Word indistinct] Heorhiy Chornomorskyy. You were saying, Leonid Makarovych, that the United States is granting us additional financial aid. But Deputy Prime Minister Valentyn Landyk said yesterday that we would have to pay this year's gas debts in dollars. Will this aid suffice to settle our accounts by the time the new bill arrives in April?

[Kravchuk] I understand. Nobody has ever given anybody a loan to pay fuel debts. This is not envisaged by the legislation of, in this case, the United States. Critical import loans are a special kind of loans, there are critical import loans, fuel import loans, loans on preferential terms, and nonreturnable loans. These groups of loans were not discussed. We discussed economic aid and aid toward nuclear arms elimination. But I can tell you this, whatever loans we may take, if our Ukrainian economy does not start working for real, does not start earning money, be it dollars or marks, no aid will help us. That is why we are aiming for start-up loans, in order to give a starting boost to the movement toward the market, privatization, stabilization of the finance-and-credit system, thus to make the economy self-sufficient.

What do we have now? Ukraine, for its economy, its resources and products is not a poor country. And yet we cannot earn hard currency. Why? I will tell you why. We could sell our products on the Russian market, that is not we, but our enterprises. However, every enterprise must sell not just on the market, but to another enterprise that they have a contract or a long-term agreement with, an agreement they signed previously. But Russian enterprises are out of rubles. You know this. Therefore, we cannot sell out products and earn these rubles to pay for fuel.

There is another way. We could sell traditional Ukrainian products to Europe. What is traditional? I also call them sensitive commodities. These are metal, metal goods, coal, chemical products, textiles, etc, that is goods that were traditionally sold to Europe. But we need quotas, which we do not have. Thus, we are in this complex situation. We have products, a labor force, a colossal potential, but we are unable to make money. In Russia, there is no money, and here [in Europe] there are no quotas.

There is another thing. After Ukraine and other states declared their independence, the strategic long-term economic policy in Russia was such that ministries were instructed to duplicate the products previously imported from Ukraine. Thus, many of those products are now manufactured in Russia itself. Hence, the stance of those who say we need to restore the old ties looks completely ill-considered. They are impossible to restore. In order to restore the old ties we need to break the ones we have now. We need new ties that would accord with the interests of Ukraine and Russia, we must deepen them on the basis of market reform and democratic change. Calls to restore the old ties today is simply beyond reality.

Many people, by the way, fail to realize this, the fact that a new situation has come to pass, both in Russia and Ukraine. Now we need, on the basis of the interests and needs of the Ukrainian and Russian economies and the population, to forge contacts between enterprises, and those enterprises who had already realized this made contact with one another without our help, and are not demanding any help from the presidents. They have found each other, and they are working, the only complication being the payment situation. So, do not take this aid to us as aid toward our payment for fuel. We must pay for fuel with the help of our own economy. Yes, we need aid, but as a start-up loan, or as critical import credits.

[Correspondent Kucherenko] Tamara Kucherenko, Radio Ukraine World Service. Esteemed Mr. President. During your U.S. visit, you met official representatives of the IMF and World Bank. How successful were these meetings? Did you talk about any specific programs in support of economic reforms in Ukraine? What specific financial resources can we count on, and are there any financial agreements to this effect? Did you discuss a stabilization fund for our national currency, if yes, what did you manage to achieve?

[Kravchuk] Even before the visit, back in January, our economic delegation led by Economy Minister Roman Shpek visited the United States and conducted extensive work with the IMF and its experts, and the World Bank. The World Bank and the IMF experts also worked in Ukraine. We are greatly helped in this matter by Mr. Kaufman, a World Bank representative who is working in Ukraine. One week before the visit, our delegation made up of the same people visited the United States and again worked with international financial organizations. And we managed to work out all the sections of a government and IMF program. There are about five of them. At issue now is putting all these sections into a single program. This program should be completed in the near future.

As I gathered from conversations with the representatives, the director, and the president of the World Bank and the IMF, there are grounds for saying this agreement is a positive one. As soon as the program is agreed, we can count both on credits and on a stabilization fund.

Thus, at the end of March we should be able to say that this program has been completed and agreed on both sides, the government of Ukraine and these international organizations.

[Correspondent Kudryn] Mykhaylo Kudryn, EKSPRESS-KHRONIKA, Moscow, and RESPUBLIKA agency, Kiev. Pardon me, this is about our Ukrainian affairs. Recently, you have been saying in interviews for numerous media, particularly the SPIEGEL magazine and a group of freelance journalists led by Ihor Storozhuk, as well as in the United States, that if the election fails to take place on 27 March we are in store for a power vacuum. But the Supreme Council statement of 25 February says there will be no power vacuum, since the present Supreme Council will preserve its constitutional powers and will be active until March next year. Let me ask, who are we to believe, you, the popularly elected president of Ukraine, or our dear Supreme Council also popularly elected, or do we believe nobody at all? Thank you.

[Kravchuk] Well, first of all, whenever I speak about this issue I never say that it is precisely how it will be. I say, there could be a power vacuum. You accurately laid stress on this. I will give you an example, there is a constitution standard and this is how it really is. Until a new Supreme Council is elected, the old Supreme Council carries out its functions. But I ask myself, and in order not to offend anybody, let us take Mykola Khomenko, secretary of the president's administration, who is a deputy in Konotop electoral district, and on 27 March they elect Sydorenko instead of Fomenko [word indistinct]. One was elected under the Soviet regime when Ukraine was part of the USSR under that electoral law, and this one will be elected on 27 March, and he will be given authority by the Electoral Commission that there were no violations and that he was elected in accordance with the law. Which deputy do I consider to be more important? Do you understand? [passage omitted]

After this, the situation could worsen considerably, because [assume] there is no new Supreme Council, and new deputies have already been elected in place of the old ones. Assume they also come to Kiev and they ask: What are we to do? This is what I am talking about. How long will these elections go on for? Will they be finished immediately on 27 March or will they continue for two weeks or even longer. This period could be significantly complex. I am simply making a prognosis. I would like people to realize what this means. When I call on them to vote, I am doing it willingly because firstly, I know that it is an important stage and secondly, because no democratic country can consider itself really democratic if parliament and the freedom of political parties are absent from it. This is not a democratic state. I understand the difficulties, economic problems, etc. but voters must understand that they must elect a new Supreme Council. I do not want to predict now what type of parliament it will be, or how many democrats or partocrats will be there. I do not want to analyze this situation now. I want to say only one thing: We need a new parliament that would represent Ukraine on the basis of a new electoral law and freedom etc., as a democratic state.

Regarding the elections that follow, this is another problem. I have already told you about them. Let us say, what kind of president will be elected? One that is set out in the Constitution, as the present one who is head of state and of the executive power with his powers, or another kind of president? There is no law.

Next point. What sort of powers will the elected head of the council at town, village, rayon, and oblast level have? What sort of relations will he have with the center, the president, and the government? Which law governs his powers and functions? There is no law.

There is, therefore, a danger that somebody could be elected tomorrow over whom the voters have no real influence. It will depend, therefore, on the individual who may or may not understand the situation. Since individuals vary one cannot count on understanding. It is necessary to clearly indicate this in law. Because I am saying this, it does not mean that I am defending my interests. I am describing the real situation so that the people and the mass media understand it, so they do not look for pitfalls, but see the real situation and the dangers for Ukraine if we really feel for Ukraine, not in words but in deeds.

[Correspondent Lemin] Olha Lemin, VYBIR information agency. The presidential elections are taking place at the same time as local elections. What do you mean that the presidential elections and local elections should be slightly delayed? If you did not mean this, then who will make the decision for the local elections to be held separately from the presidential elections?

[Kravchuk] I said both together. I do not separate the presidential [elections] and the local power bodies. The way I see it, is that the parliament adopts the appropriate laws with regard to the president and the local power bodies, clearly delimits their powers and functions, their rights, obligations and relations in detail, and sets this out in the constitution because this is the power. We have an example of two laws being adopted about the presidential representative and the local organs of power, and if these provisions had not been written in the Constitution...[pauses] You are aware that during every session somebody says: This is unconstitutional. This is reality. Power should be written into the Constitution. It is obligatory. This is why I am saying that two laws should be adopted, first one and then the other. They should both be elected. When? When the law is adopted. We cannot first elect them then pass a law. [passage omitted] I am not dividing them. I want them to be elected at the same time but only after laws are passed. This is an obligatory norm.

[Unidentified correspondent] Japanese TV and Radio corporation [word indistinct]. Could you tell us, Mr. President, whether Ukraine plans to dismantle all of its nuclear weapons, and what the prospects are for getting real security guarantees after their elimination.

[Kravchuk] According to the trilateral agreement, Ukraine will dismantle all of its nuclear arms. Incidentally, START I, which the Supreme Council has ratified, and Paragraph 5 of the Lisbon Protocol reservations on which have been lifted, imply precisely that—elimination of all nuclear arms. According to the bilateral agreements, in particular those with Russia, Ukraine will abide by its commitments provided other states do the same and abide by their commitments, without creating complications during the period of eliminating nuclear arms. We must find ways to solve the most complex issues without putting brakes on this extremely important process for the entire world and all the people.

As for security guarantees, the United States, Russia, and other states have given their consent for such guarantees, and this is no longer any problem. Our ministry is currently working on a relevant mechanism to determine whether it will be a statement or an agreement, who will sign it and what its content will be. But we also realize that both Russia and the United States tie the provision of security guarantees in a documented form with the ratification of the Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], although, by lifting the reservations as to the Lisbon Protocol, Ukraine has committed itself to joining the NPT as a non-nuclear state. It is a commitment and not mere words, but the NPT has to be ratified. Relevant documents have been submitted to the Supreme Council, and we will work persistently together with the ministry and the Cabinet of Ministers in order to gradually push it through and work this problem out.

I am convinced that Ukraine will, in accordance with its obligations and the conceptual principles it declared, act consistently in this sensitive global area. This is a long-term and fundamental policy for our state.

[Correspondent Zavytskyy] Myroslav Zavytskyy, NASHE SLOVO and ZA VILNU UKRAYINU newspapers. Esteemed Mr. President. The world views Ukraine with great hope as a factor of stability in (?this) part of Europe. But will the polls, which (Parnishkov) and his colleagues from Donetsk and Lugansk intend to conduct, not have negative consequences for this stability and for the preservation of Ukraine's unity?

The second question, essentially a domestic one: How long will the attendants at the president's palace and other government structures address visitors in languages other than Ukrainian? Thank you.

[Kravchuk] Well, one could reply to the second question formally thus: that in our law on languages of the Ukrainian SSR, as you remember, five years were given for people to be addressed thus. The five years are not up yet. But in this case I am against these five years. I believe that individuals in Ukraine can communicate in any language. That is their right. But as far as officials are concerned, and on official premises, then this should be in Ukrainian. This is the norm of any state. Well, whoever does not do this, perhaps he didn't have enough time or intelligence or the talent to master the Ukrainian language. Or perhaps he has simply forgotten about this law. We will remind them of it. But if you tell me the names, I could remind them more precisely.

Now, with regard to the first question about the poll that is being conducted. Well, I knew that this issue is an acute one, and so I have already brought something here. I knew that this question would be asked without fail, especially as edicts have already been signed by Crimea's president. That is, at issue there is a poll of three questions in President Meshkov's edict.

The first one: Are you in favor of renewing the clause in the Republic of Crimea's constitution, which was there back in May 1992, regulating relations between Crimea and Ukraine on the basis of treaties and agreements? That is the first question. The second: do you favor the Republic of Crimea's citizens having the right to dual citizenship? And the third: are you in favor of edicts from the Republic of Crimea's president on issues unregulated by legislation having the force of law?

Well, I will simply remind you that this was already in the Republic of Crimea's constitution in 1992. It was there. For example, if one takes the first issue, there was this formula of 6 May 1992 in these words: The Republic of Crimea is part of the state of Ukraine and determines its relations with it on the basis of treaties and agreements.

But then on 25 September 1992, after Ukraine submitted a request to the Supreme Council to bring its Constitution in line with Ukraine's Constitution, it was noted thus: The Republic of Crimea is part of the composition of Ukraine and determines its relations with it on the basis of mutually agreed legislative acts and agreements. That is, these issues were in the constitution. Crimea's Supreme Council withdrew them and brought them into line with Ukraine's constitution.

Now, by means of a referendum—consultative referendums and referendums are envisaged there in the law on referendums of the republic of Crimea. Polls are not envisaged. But a poll is possible in a resolution by Crimea's Supreme Council. Well, clearly it has no legislative or legal force. We are currently studying this issue. Our group of lawyers is studying it. That is, in whatever aspect it appears, it has no legal force. This is, well, an important element.

It seems to me that it would be better to wait until Ukraine's constitution is adopted and act so that the interests of all regions are taken account of most fully in the constitution, and not to push people toward, say, confrontation, to an exacerbation of the situation. This is not a noble matter, but nobility is a relative concept. And the law, which is adopted, has legal force, and we will be guided namely by the law in our actions, and not by moral norms, because they are not noted, for example, in the legislative regulation of these problems. I expect that we will find a resolution of this issue. If it creates conflict, say, our services study it and come to this conclusion, then we will try to find a mutually acceptable resolution. But one thing is clear, whatever the outcome, it will not have legal force.

[Correspondent Tykhyy] Esteemed Mr. President. Serhiy Tykhyy, UNIAN agency. Esteemed Mr. President: It is well known that one of the fundamental conditions for investing in the economy of another state is political and economic stability. If one is to proceed from your statement about your refusal to stand in the June presidential elections, and also your arguments for this stance, and also that which has been said at this press conference today, it is too early at the moment to speak of stability in Ukraine. In this connection my question is this: What arguments and what guarantees did you use in your conversations with your U.S. interlocutors to persuade them to invest funds in Ukraine's economy? Thank you.

[Kravchuk] Well, in general to speak of some kind of serious stability in the transitional period —from one life to another, from one society to another, from one economic system to another, and the political system, and the spiritual belief system, and the spiritual view of those problems—is probably not easy. But everyone sees that in spite of all this in this time we in Ukraine have won independence without conflicts, that we are working without some kind of confrontational encounters, where blood is shed, where people shoot and kill.

That is, I can say absolutely that we have peace and calm in Ukraine. And this is the most important sign of stability. But such stability as is connected with forming bodies of power cannot be identified, for example, if there is a president, then there is stability; if there is no president, then straight away there is no stability; if there is a Supreme Council, there is stability; if there is no Supreme Council, there is no stability. At issue is a vacuum of power. This is what it is about.

This is why I say: If a situation arises whereby this vacuum becomes a reality, then the president should be highly responsible, for he has been elected by the people, and he cannot run for election at this time. Well, what sort of a president is it who stands for election in these circumstances, tell me please. He would then have put himself on a par with the other contenders.

Say, for example, the Supreme Council had not been formed. Accordingly the government, the new government with a new program, similarly to the Supreme Council, had not been formed—and the president runs for election. Then all the bodies of power in the localities run for election. This is what is at issue.

That is why I say that at this time I, if these steps have not been taken, if the Supreme Council has not been elected and if the government has not been formed, then the Supreme Council (?sets to work), it produces a program, it appoints a new government, together with the president naturally, at least in accordance with the current constitution. The government assumes power. One might even manage to adopt a law on the Cabinet of Ministers. Then there is a Supreme Council, there is a Cabinet of Ministers, its powers and relations have been determined. Then one can take the next step. This is what it is about.

I do not want you to connect, well, some kind of exacerbation of instability namely with this. This will not be. After all there is a president. And he has responsibility. There are bodies of power in the localities. This is the most important thing. There are deputies of the current composition of parliament, who can still assemble before 27 March, and if the good will is there, as they say, resolve these questions too. Why not? If there are laws, they can be adopted. That is, one cannot say that we are now in a dead-end. There are realistic possibilities. They should be made use of.

But I convinced, well, how did I convince my, say, partners? I related to them the true situation, which exists in Ukraine. Incidentally, they know about it very well. One cannot say now that the situation in Ukraine is worse than in other regions. I can say absolutely that it is not worse, and in many cases better even. I would only wish that all of us together understood it thus, all together. Because some understand that this Ukrainian, this political striptease, is the biggest victory for those who write or speak. I think otherwise.

[Correspondent Skachko] Volodymyr Skachko, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. Mr. President, when arguing your refusal to run in the election, you said that you were offended by deputies, by the press, which supposedly badgers the president, who has been elected by the people. So this is my question: on the scales of history whose outrage is worse, yours at the press and deputies, or that of the people, who are still waiting for economic reforms? That is, to put the question more specifically: to what extent has your "Five D's" program been implemented? This is the first thing.

Second: I would simply like to draw attention to the fact that such a thing has never occurred in this hall before—news conferences always were held live. People simply came and wrote their names down and conveyed information. This time Comrade Ivanyn (?simply) pushed to one side a whole lot of journalists and brought in those whom he believes are of his opinion. So I would simply like to tell both your press secretary and you that if he wanted to do something for your image in this way, it is simply not done in this way.

[Kravchuk] I do not know what you mean on the second point. I understand this question as an observation to our press service that it should take account of your wishes for some kind of record, you understand, I cannot even imagine what you are talking about. What record? A record of what? I do not understand this. But if you have a question in the hall, then you can put any question you like. Raise your hand and I will ask you to raise it, and I do not think that this is a problem for our hall. We can debate for as long as you have the strength, and I will have sufficient strength. That is the first thing.

The second thing: I did not say that I was offended. I always emphasize that in politics one should never take offense at anyone. One can only be offended by close people, by those with whom we have some kind of mutual relations. But in politics taking offense is out of place. I am talking about something else—that Ukraine can become a phenomenon, first, in how our own home-grown lords are undressing their own Ukraine in public, and consider this to be an achievement.

Second, I said that Ukraine could become a phenomenon of the consolidated boorishness in relation to the president elected by the people, namely boorishness. Because the Ukrainian language is very rich in words, in intonations, and in accents. Culture means that one can make use of this to express everything one needs to—whether to the president or to anyone else. I said that I am not going to compete with anyone in boorishness because I know in advance that I am doomed to defeat. Because I know the capabilities of those, who are competing in this. I know their capabilities. Especially as I have never set myself the task, and will never set myself the task of shutting someone up.

If he has a pen, and Ukraine has given him the freedom of speech, namely independent Ukraine, before speaking one should think about whom this benefits. I always say that before taking any political decision or writing—if you have children, come home in the evening, sit them down opposite you and look into their eyes and listen to what is happening—refugees, death, blood,—and then write, then call on people to act.

It is namely this that I was talking about. I am convinced that no nation, no people, in the person of its intelligentsia, in the person of its elite, to which incidentally journalists belong, and whom I sincerely respect, will not become famous by being boorish or disrespectful to persons who have been elected by the people. They can face elections again, they can be, say, if they are involved in crime or something, there are appropriate bodies to deal with this. But there is no need whatever to compete in this. I advise you not to make use of these methods, because history has its own ways. (?Everything) that is written is to be remembered and submitted to the archives. Each person will be answerable to history, and for culture and for everything which has been done, and for the five D's, and for the six Ds, and for the three Ps, and will be answerable for everything.

[Correspondent Veresen] Mykola Veresen, BBC. I would like to ask two questions to clarify details. What will the president of Ukraine, that is, you, do in the event that the Russians do not compensate for the missiles, which have already gone to Ukraine. As far as we understand, as far as I understand, there was to be a simultaneous crossing of the border by missiles on the part of Ukraine, and fuel elements, or compensation, on the part of Russia. Second, what will you do if Crimea separates despite everything—because there is going to be a poll on the 27th and they will have grounds to leave Ukraine. The mood there is that the majority of people do not want to belong to Ukraine.

[Kravchuk] I will start from the second question. I have read the questions to you. There is nothing there about what you are saying with regard to separating. The issue is dual citizenship and in what sort of composition the Republic of Crimea finds itself in Ukraine. On the contrary. There is nothing about separating. So that is not at issue. I cannot say on the basis of these three questions, which I expressed for you—here they are—that the poll is about separating. That is not there. Therefore, we will not speak about this. I am talking about the legal and lawful force of this, say, edict, which in this case we are studying, in relation to Ukraine's constitution and in relation to the law on the delimitation of powers between Ukraine and the republic of Crimea. This is the only area in which I can comment.

Well, we have concluded an agreement with Russia—it has been signed—on compensation for the weapons, which have been taken out of Ukraine—missiles are not taken out, warheads are taken out—on respective compensation for uranium, which is in the form of fuel elements and fuel assemblies for Ukrainian nuclear power stations. This will be implemented. However, if one side suddenly ceases to implement it, then the other side will cease to implement it as well. This is a normal phenomenon; this is how it will be, but I do not expect it to come to this. We should work at it because this is in the interests of everyone—Ukraine and Russia and the whole world. One cannot stop this process, say, by some unwise decision. Whoever is the first to make this decision will bear all of the historial responsibility for this.

[Makarovych] Leonid Makarovych, (?INTERFAX-Ukraine). Tell me, please, what your attitude is to the possibility of the Russian joint stock company Gazprom being given the controlling package of shares in the flotation of Ukrainian gas pipelines and gas repositories on Ukraine's territory? This proposal was made yesterday at the talks in Moscow. Thank you.

[Kravchuk] I know that we have long been discussing this issue on the flotation of, for example, our enterprises in Ukraine, including oil processing enterprises, and on setting up an appropriate Ukrainian corporation, for example Ukrnaftohaz [Ukrainian oil and gas]. This issue is also being raised. Setting up such a corporation and setting up joint stock enterprises, which will be part of this corporation—this issue is being analyzed and documents are being elaborated. The issue is that the Ukrainian side must have the controlling package of shares without fail. This is an indispensable norm. We will not agree to another.

[Makarychenko] Leonid Makarychenko, Intelnews agency. Esteemed Leonid Makarovych, I would still like to get a more precise reply to the question of whether the movement of fuel for Ukraine's nuclear power stations in the reverse direction, from Russia, has begun. Second, will your accord with Russia and the United States, your dialogue, allow a market to open to Ukrainian enterprises for conventional armaments? Third, Ukraine's space program—the carriers, which launch space ships, can also easily launch other loads. Will these limitations not concern space programs?

[Kravchuk] Well, we have just taken out 60 warheads. So, this is not yet such a, say, large amount that one can talk about a reverse movement. We are to take out 200 warheads by May, the end of May. An appropriate scheme is being elaborated. I stress that the agreement, which has been concluded and signed by Ukraine and Russia, envisages this—that is, whenever this may be, for example, in one week or in two, but it is envisaged. This does not mean that fuel assemblies meet nuclear warheads, greet each other, and go their separate ways. There should be a certain time, but this is envisaged in the agreement. That is, both in the trilateral statement and in the documents affixed to it this is envisaged. Noone, neither Russia nor Ukraine, have refused to do this. That is, this will be carried out.

I have already stressed to you that we submitted a draft document to the United States on cooperation in the sphere of space technology. In our conversations, and also at the Pentagon, we found support for participation by the United States. Prior to this we also had appropriate consultations and relations with French managers about the possibility of cooperation in the sphere of space technology, taking into account that this is, well, highly developed here, as we say, both the construction of the rockets themselves and the systems for controlling the rockets.

Approximately...[pauses] not approximately, but on 22 March a delegation from the United States will come to Ukraine. It is headed by [U.S. Defense Secretary] Minister [William] Perry, and these issues will be further elaborated. That is, we have put them on the agenda, and we will elaborate them. That is, this is not being taken off the agenda. We want our rocket technology, our experience, our, say, priorities here, to be made use of not only for the benefit of Ukraine, but for the possibilities of other states. The United States and other countries have an understanding attitude to this.

What else did you ask? [Makarychenko's reply indistinct] We did not discuss this issue in the United States with anyone.

[Krushko] Ihor Hrushko, HOLOS UKRAYINY. Leonid Makarovych, I have one question for you, which is important in my opinion, which my colleagues have not considered. As is well known, during the trilateral talks in Moscow the question of compensation to Ukraine for the tactical nuclear weapons, which were taken out of Ukraine, was also raised. The question was raised, but as far as I know, it has not been resolved yet. Please tell me, when you were in Washington, did you discuss this with the American President?

[Kravchuk] We discussed this with the Russian side and in this agreement, which I mentioned has been initialled and is to be signed on the part of Russia and Ukraine by their respective governments, such compensation is envisaged, and it is envisaged as a whole. All of this is noted in this document.

[Verchuk] Mr. President, tell me, did people go to the United States with you who are capable of creating competitive production or were they mainly intermediaries? For we can get out of the economic crisis only when we begin to produce competitive products. Stepan Verchuk.

[Kravchuk] Well, products are produced by people. These are workers, engineers, designers. These people did not go with me, because there are 52 million such people in Ukraine in all. Ministers and advisors came with me. They do not produce products, but that Ukraine can produce competitive products is a real fact. [passage omitted]

That is, there are colossal possibilities in Ukraine for going over to the best competitive products. However, you see the situation that has arisen. All of these products were produced on the basis of raw materials and energy-carriers, which came from other states, but now prices have gone up thousands of times. We have ended up in a difficult situation. [passage omitted] Everything has to be reformed. The structure has to be changed. We have to make what we have the possibilities for and find our niche on the world market, in Europe and America.

Incidentally, our agreements envisage all of this, that goods will move and that there will not be, say, these various customs hindrances, or dual taxation. That is, all of this is envisaged. Time is needed. [passage omitted] We have to take on board experience; we have to work. The main thing is that all are convinced that only by working can the problem be shifted. There is no other way. Not a single country has yet resolved its problems without people beginning to work in an organized and qualified way, making use of their own possibilities. There is no other way.

[Unidentified correspondent] POLITYKA I CHAS [POLITICS AND TIME]. Esteemed Mr. President, we have received information that part of the money that Washington will give us for economic assistance will be spent on purchasing grain or soya. Would it not be more expedient to buy progressive technology with this money? I understand that noone in the United States is going to sell us anything very good, because at the same time if they give us the opportunity to sell our natural resources, they will lose a market, the Russian market. But are work and searches under way in this direction, for example, among the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States, in that agricultural country Argentina, for example, where Ukrainians play a large role in agriculture, because this is a very topical issue? [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk] Well, this money will not be spent on purchase of grain. This money includes 352 million for nuclear arms elimination and 350 million to solve our economic problems having to do with, first of all, know-how, structural reform, privatization, and other factors. The issue about granting us a credit to buy pesticides and [word indistinct] is dealt with separately but it does not concern grain. What is special about these credits is that they take account of everything: If we are allowed, say, 150 million this year for nuclear arms elimination, we must decide together where this money should be channelled to, whether more could be channelled toward fuel processing, the dismantling of a part of the infrastructure, the elimination of warheads, missiles, and other areas. We also, however, have a problem with conversion, a problem with housing for officers, a problem with social security. During our talks at the Pentagon and with the secretary of defense, we emphasized the need to use more money for these purposes, to ensure social stability. Thus, this money is for a specific purpose. [passage omitted]

[Kurbas, in Russian] Oleksiy Kurbas, KOMMERSANT UKRAINY. The new credits will be granted to Ukraine on condition that market reforms continue. Meanwhile, our government has won a reputation of being against reforms. Can we expect, therefore, any changes in the cabinet in the near future?

[Kravchuk] Well, this is not the case of a new government coming to power and making itself a reputation. Many of the present members worked under former Prime Ministers [Vitold] Fokin and [Leonid] Kuchma. Incidentally, this government inherited all the members of the previous one, formed by Leonid Danylovych [Kuchma] together with the Supreme Council, and I do not deny my own hand in this. However, one can say this: If you take the current reforms—say, privatization—and measure them then you will see that real privatization has only just begun, I mean real, not verbal, privatization. For example, recently the Kramatorsk heavy machine-building plant was privatized.

I was asked today by representatives of the West, what are the criteria? What will be the next step? I will tell you: There are dozens of appeals in my daily mail coming from directors, who are often labelled red directors, saying that they want to have their enterprises privatized. Just a year ago nobody wrote this. On the contrary, they wrote: What are you doing? Where are you leading us? But now they write: Permit us to privatize. These are former leaders, Communists, labelled red and other labels. This is what they say now. Life itself leads an individual toward certain steps. If we are planning to privatize over 30,000 small, medium-sized, and large enterprises this year, and this has already begun to happen, this is real privatization, and these are real reforms.

We are talking about a certain extent of stabilization in the finance-and-credit system and a drop in inflation. I am not about to talk of great successes. I am afraid to. However, in January inflation was already 19 percent, and in February, 20 percent. If you compare this to last year's, it is poles apart. I am not saying these are great successes, but you can see that something is breaking through and taking shape. Something new is being born, something old is dying, and something of the old is still holding on. Of course, I would like to see land reform gain pace. I would like other processes in the bank and credit system to gain pace. However, you cannot force them; otherwise you would have to use administrative methods, use force. People need to mature for this.

Take land reform, for example. It is a very painful issue. I recently returned from Lithuania where I spoke to President Brazauskas. The most serious problem for them today is the problem of the countryside, because they declared reforms in the countryside, gave land to the people, and now the people say, take it back. To take the land, one needs to have an infrastructure, not only for production but to know to whom and when to sell it, how to pay, to have mini-technology, and to know where to buy pesticides and mineral fertilizers, in order to be on the market. If you do not have all this, you can only declare reforms. You will end up killing the countryside, because it is not that simple. I do not think we can look at it this way: If we declare reforms today, they will take off tomorrow, because, whatever criticism you may fire at the Supreme Council, it did pass a privatization program for 1994 the same way it approved anti-inflation measures. People change under the pressure of life, and reforms will take off. There is no alternative to that. We will not build socialism in one country, Ukraine. That is a fact, and everybody understands it. [passage omitted]

[Rudenko] SVOBODA newspaper, Raisa Rudenko. Do you believe that the improvement in relations between Ukraine and America will affect Ukraine's nation-building? Do you see it posing any threat to Ukrainian sovereignty?

[Kravchuk] How should one analyze this? If you analyze it from the point of purely Soviet Communist mentality, it would look like this: If a country is suddenly helping us, look deeper. If people interpreted the favorable attitude of the United States, its friendly attitude toward Ukraine, its willingness to help, like that, it would make one think. Because I remember the times when one was made to think that if any country is treating you well, you must look for some underlying reasons. However, I think those times are a thing of the past, and the majority of people understand that without the assistance of large countries, without their favorable attitude it is practically impossible to build an independent Ukraine.

A very important factor to me is the fact that the U.S. President said without reservation that he respects Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, and that this is something to be reckoned with.

This was also said in other documents and statements. This was said in the trilateral statement signed in Moscow. Thus, I would like to say, if those who think that holding onto nuclear weapons one cannot use is a guarantee of security, continue to think so, then I guess they cannot think otherwise, they are doomed.

It is clear now that only with help, with support, with guarantees and good relations with the neighbors within the CIS and beyond we can build an independent Ukrainian state. If only we cna also come to terms among ourselves. [passage omitted]

Therefore, I am convinced that these kinds of relations are the only guarantee, provided we work ourselves, take advantage of this situation, and use this assistance in the interests of the economy and the people, that Ukraine will move faster toward reforms and toward a better lifestyle. Wondering whether Ukraine is to be or not to be, as some put it, is something I will never stand for. Ukraine is here to stay, by all means. Nobody can reverse the course of history. One can [word indistinct] it, one can impudently tear at it, but one has to be mad to wonder whether it is to be or not to be. Forgive me for saying this, but one gentleman said to me: What do you think, will Ukraine survive or not? I replied in a not-so-tolerant way: I have no doubt that Ukraine will survive as I have no doubt that it will outlive you.

[Boyko] Oksana Boyko, VECHIRNIY KIEV newspaper. Leonid Makarovych, I would like you to clarify two more aspects of your American visit. The Clinton administration is often accused of taking a personalized approach to relations with certain countries, particularly Russia, treating Russia as Yeltsin. It looks like the same personalization is taking place now in seeing Ukraine through Kravchuk. You were talking about the next presidential election. If there is an early election, and you indeed do not take part in it, do you think it will put a freeze on our thawing relations with America? Another thing: In January this year, American intelligence predicted that Ukraine may split into several separate nuclear states. Did you sense any reference to this prediction during your negotiations at the White House, or does the White House ignore the predictions of its intelligence?

[Kravchuk] I will begin with the second question. Why read American intelligence reports? Read our own publications and you will find there that Ukraine will definitely split into three or four or as many as one feels like, parts. No need for intelligence, you can read what we say and write ourselves. This does not mean that we cannot think this way or make predictions, but I would not think there are any grounds for seeing any tragedy in this. The main thing is for us to understand that our cause is to unite around the highest task of building an independent, democratic, law-governed, friendly, and peaceful Ukraine, one that takes advantage of its wealth; its natural, human, scientific, and technical potential; joins all European and world structures; makes friends with neighbors and does not settle any scores with anyone. I think we will cope with this task because we have no alternative. Everybody must understand this.

As for personalization, I talked about this in the United States when I was asked similar questions. By the way, nobody asked me this in the White House, but journalists did ask. I said: Ukraine is there, START-I has been ratified, and reservations have been lifted on Paragraph 5 of the Lisbon Protocol. Finally, there are programs set by the Supreme Council and the government. These are real facts. To turn away from this course, which has already begun to pave its way straight on the fields, at the factories, and in the mentality and souls of the people by consolidating this realization, would not be that simple.

Every period is associated with a certain personality, but this does not mean that the people would allow themselves to elect a president who would pursue a different course, against independence or against statehood. I cannot imagine that. People will not stand for that. They would elect a person who would fight for the state, for a democratic, law-governed state. If something should suddenly happen, well, there are zig-zags in history, but it would be impossible today. That is what I think, and there is no tragedy in it. There are no eternal presidents. Everyone must do his job and let others do theirs. It is up to the people to decide who they should elect.

Thank you for the meeting. I wish you all the best.

Navy Commander Denies Fleet Handover to Russia

LD1003182994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1720 GMT 10 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Kiev, 10 Mar—"Ukraine no longer has on its agenda the possibility of handing over its share of the Black Sea Fleet ships to Russia as a form of payment for its oil and gas debt." This has been stated in an interview with foreign journalists by Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, commander of Ukraine's Navy. He emphasized that the protocol signed in Massandra by Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk was only a protocol of intent. The handover of the Ukrainian part of the Fleet has never been a way out of the situation that has come about.

According to the commander, the issue has been studied and rejected. The handover of the Ukrainian part of the Fleet to Russia is no longer being discussed. Instead, both sides are in agreement on creating a commission to inventorize the ships and other fleet property for the purpose of dividing them up in accordance with the yet earlier accords between the presidents of the two countries. In Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy's opinion the Fleet should be divided equally before the end of 1995.

Black Sea Fleet Commander on Dual Subordination

LD1103111294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2120 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] Sevastopol—In an interview with BBC Television on 10 March, Black Sea Fleet Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin stated that the Black Sea Fleet remains an operational strategic formation capable of fulfilling its tasks. He emphasized that at the moment, Moscow is engaged to a greater extent in material and technical provisions for the Black Sea Fleet. Disruptions in supplying the fleet are due to the economic state of both Ukraine and Russia.

The Black Sea Fleet commander evaluated the morale of personnel as satisfactory and capable of ensuring the completion of tasks set for the fleet. "This was tested in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict," said the admiral.

According to information from the Black Sea Fleet press center, Admiral Eduard Baltin agreed with the assertion of the television journalists that the fleet's dual subordination is an unusual phenomenon in world practice. In his opinion, such a situation does not create any problems for officers, as the latter are subordinate to the fleet's command. However, problems sometimes arise for the command.

The Black Sea Fleet commander expressed the hope that the presidents of Russia and Ukraine will solve the problems of the fleet in the near future, proceeding from the military-political tasks facing it: "I am currently subordinate to two presidents," stated the admiral, "and I concur with them on all of my operational actions. As for some of the high-ranking military, I have gotten used to some dissatisfaction on their part. I think that the presidents will make the right decision, taking into account the military-political situation and economic possibilities. In my opinion, Russia and Ukraine do not have great differences, and those that they do have will be resolved by political means."

National Affairs

Kravchuk Issues Decree on Municipal Ownership

LD1303202194 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has issued a decree on strengthening the economic principles of cities' self-government. The president has decreed that property that secures the population's general municipal and socioeconomic needs should be included in the cities' municipal ownership, and has defined the sectors where the property is located. The Cabinet of Ministers has been instructed to compile, within a two month period, a list of facilities that are in general state ownership and are subject to being transferred to the ownership of cities.

Reform Bloc Issues Appeal on Elections

LD1303173494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] The Kuchma-Grinyov Inter-Regional Bloc of Reforms, led by Ukraine's Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma and Vice Chairman of the Ukrainian parliament Vladimir Grinyov, circulated an appeal to the Ukrainian people on March 12 in view of the parliamentary elections scheduled for March 27.

This document says that "the country has approached the limit beyond which there is national catastrophe, economic ruin and civil war." It also says that Ukraine needed a new political course and successful democratic elections.

The Inter-Regional Bloc of Reforms urged the population not to allow the bankrupt authorities, who are planning to foil the elections, to deceive them. If the Ukrainian citizens do not come to the polling stations on March 27, the policy which has pushed them to the verge of extinction, will be continued, says this bloc's appeal.

150 Deputies To Stand in Elections

LD1303173294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] One hundred and fifty deputies of the present Ukrainian Supreme Council have decided to take part in the elections again. This was reported in the press by Ivan Yemets, head of the Central Electoral Commission for the election of Ukrainian people's deputies. The majority of them are standing in their former districts. However, there are several who have decided to relocate, noted Ivan Yemets. Among them are a group of Kiev deputies who are willing to be candidates in rural districts. In total 5,830 candidates for people's deputies have been registered in Ukraine.

Russian Economist Elected Crimean Deputy Premier

LD1103192094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol March 11 TASS—The Crimean Parliament nominated ex-Russian Economic Minister and economist Yevgeniy Saburov Crimean vice-premier today on proposal of Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and decided to appeal to the Ukrainian president for Ukrainian citizenship of Saburov.

Saburov thinks a program of economic reforms can be developed in the near future to ensure the improvement of financial relations with Russia, better banking and privatization system, changes in the taxation system and attraction of foreign investors.

The Russian economist praised the current Crimean Government and said only a few new people will be introduced in the Crimean cabinet.

The parliament meeting put on the agenda the cancellation of moratorium on referendum on the Crimean state status and refused to consider the application of Parliament Speaker Nikolay Bagrov for resignation.

The parliament made no comments on the Ukrainian Parliament resolution on bringing the Crimean legislation in correspondence to the Ukrainian laws and voted down the proposal to restore the Crimean Constitution of May 6, 1992, that declared independence of the Crimea.

The law-makers listened to ministers' reports on draft plans of Crimean economic and social development, republican and local budgets for 1994 and discussed the documents in commissions.

Holds News Conference

LD1103232594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1955 GMT 11 Mar 94

[UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[Text] Simferopol, 11 March— While Crimean MP's were approving Crimea's budget, Yevgeniy Saburov, who was appointed deputy premier of its government, held his first official press conference.

He stated that the new government of the republic would begin to operate in its final form in a month's time—in April.

Yevgeniy Saburov said that the break with Russia was rather tragic for the economy of the Crimea since it was oriented toward selling goods and services to the Russian north in the first instance. Therefore, if one were to speak of restoring these contacts, what was at issue was not political rapprochement but the closest ties with the sales market. This is what the people of Crimea wanted, too, and one should be sympathetic toward the will of the people.

He confirmed that Crimea and Ukraine would enjoy the closest ties. And it was likely that the best of what was accepted in the Crimea would be used in Ukraine, too.

In reply to a question as to what would happen if politicians did not allow the reforms to be carried out, the deputy premier said that in that event, his stay in the Crimea would be pointless.

At the press conference itself, Yevgeniy Saburov signed a statement to Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, asking Ukrainian citizenship to be conferred upon him in connection with his appointment to work in the Crimean government.

Crimea Supreme Council Chairman on New Government

LD1303172094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Simferopol, 12 Mar—The chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council held a news conference on the results of its 15th session. He said that the session had fulfilled its task, despite the fact that the deputies did not cover all the issues on the agenda. In his opinion, "the approval of the socioeconomic development plan and the budget of the Republic of Crimea for this year, and the confirmation of the appointment of the new government's deputy prime minister set the necessary work environment for the new executive power."

The Supreme Council chairman believes, however, that this was the last session of Crimea's present Supreme Council. It will be impossible to convene a new session, he said, since the majority of parliamentarians are involved in the election campaign to keep their seats. Asked what political forces he thinks would win in the upcoming election, he said that candidates of the Rossiya bloc and the Communists stood the best chance of winning the biggest vote. "The Party of Economic Revival and the Union in Support of the Republic of Crimea are also likely to gain seats, but the new parliament will be a complex one."

Crimea's Supreme Council chairman reiterated his opinion on the priority of economic problems on the peninsula. He does not believe it sensible to hold the Crimea-wide poll on 27 March according to Yuriy Meshkov's decree, as it would have no legal force. As for the issue of lifting the moratorium on the referendum about Crimea's independence which is set to be examined at the next session, the Crimean Supreme Council chairman described it as yet another political gamble by those reluctant to leave their Supreme Council seats. "If the Crimean card continues to be played, if there is no peace and stability on the peninsula, then the investments so necessary to overcome the economic crisis will remain Yevhen Saburov's and his government's dream," Mykola Bahrov stressed.

Mykola Bahrov also declared his negative attitude to the resolution by Ukraine's Supreme Council obliging Crimea to bring its legislation in line with the Ukrainian laws within a month: In his opinion, this is not a realistic deadline.

Asked what he thought of Yuriy Meshkov's statement circulated in the media about the need to withdraw military formations from the territory of the autonomous republic, Mykola Bahrov said: "Be realistic. Crimea is Ukraine's border zone, therefore, its troops have to be deployed here."

Plans To Establish 'Alternative' Crimean TV Voiced

WS1403102694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] The idea of establishing alternative television in the Crimea has been voiced by [passage indistinct]. The Crimeans, Averkin noted, are currently offered a poor medium in Ukrainian state television, meaning the Crimean Broadcasting Company, which, in his opinion, protects the interests of Ukraine, rather than Crimea. The new broadcasting company—says the chairman of the association Impact 55 that has a criminal record—will serve the Crimean people and protect their interests.

Averkin suggests that the new broadcasting company be financed by the Crimean budget, all revenues of which now remain in Crimea. We will establish and finance our own broadcasting company, the businessmen-politician said, and later we will assess how Crimean television is doing. Averkin's idea, in the correspondent's opinion, will undoubtedly be backed by Crimean President Meshkov, who has asked Valeriy Astakhov, the current president of the Crimean Broadcasting Company, to resign. There are, however, no legal grounds for dismissing the latter or any other inconvenient radio and television journalists.

Belarus

Military Coordination Treaty With Russia Signed

LD1103195194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1552 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent aleksandr Lyushkevich for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 11 Mar—A treaty on coordinating military activities was signed in Minsk today between the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation. Under the treaty, which has been concluded for a term of 5 years, the sides undertake to cooperate in the military sphere, and "in the event of an attack on one of the states they will consult each other." Belarus and Russia are also preserving links in the manufacture of military equipment and the exchange of documents and other materials, as well as scientific developments in this sphere, and they will cooperate in the exporting of military equipment to third countries.

The treaty also envisages joint actions by Russia and Belarus in training military cadres and safeguarding the social and labor guarantees of servicemen located in or moving through the territory of the neighboring states. It also envisages the maintenance of the existing set-up for the use of the air network and communication systems. The sides have undertaken to share the cost of maintaining military cantonments.

The document was signed by Georgiy Tarazevich, the Belarusian first deputy foreign minister, and Igor Saprykin, the Russian ambassador to Minsk.

Agreement Ratified

WS1103202294 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] An agreement on the coordination of activities in the military sphere has been ratified today at the Belarusian Foreign Ministry. According to the agreement, both sides assumed the obligation to cooperate in the military sphere and, in case of a military assault on either of them, hold mutual consultations. The agreement also provides for joint operations of Belarus and Russia with regard to training military cadre, ensuring social and legal guarantees for servicemen, and preservation of the present use of the communications system network. The sides agreed to support military settlements on a reciprocal basis.

Moldova

Snegur Outlines Goals of Visit to Brussels

AU1303192194 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Cristian Nita dispatch from Chisinau]

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur left today for an official visit to Brussels, where he will sign the general documents on Moldova's adherence to Partnership for Peace.

Just before leaving, President Mircea Snegur made the following statement to the correspondents:

[Begin Snegur recording] This visit to Belgium is part of our foreign political activity, belonging among the events scheduled to take place in 1994. Its main goal is to sign the Partnership for Peace plan, since that partnership ensures security and stability in Europe within the new circumstances that emerged after the collapse of the socialist bloc and the Soviet Union. Moldova is a small and peaceful country that does not represent any danger whatsoever for anyone. Moreover, as you may know, the people have decided [in the 6 March public opinion poll] that we should promote a policy of neutrality; therefore, we need certain guarantees, and such guarantees are offered to us by Partnership for Peace.

In the same context, a meeting is scheduled to take place at the headquarters of the Western European Union [WEU] to discuss the same issues of security and cooperation in Europe.

We consider our meeting at the European Union headquarters as very important because we want to conclude a partnership and cooperation accord with that economic union. Negotiations will be initiated as soon as possible; thus, it is necessary to pay a visit to the European Union.

Finally, we will approach aspects of our bilateral relations with Belgium because we need to discuss the bilateral documents that are being prepared for signing.

Thus, my three-day visit will actually consist of a one-day visit to Belgium, another day will be consecrated to NATO in view of the Partnership for Peace plan, and the third one to my talks at the European Union. [end recording]

President Snegur Abolishes National Radio, TV

LD1103171394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 11 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] On Friday, Moldova's President Mircea Snegur signed a decree on the liquidation of the national radio and TV and the creation of a Moldovan state television and radio company.

The document points out that this has been done "to ensure efficiency of information and to exclude the threat of radio and TV monopolization on the part of political parties and organizations, to ensure efficient functioning of radio and TV on democratic principles."

Sets Up New TV, Radio Company

AU1103191394 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Cristian Nita dispatch from Chisinau]

[Text] Mr. Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova today signed a decree on setting up the state company Teleradio Moldova. Here is the text of the decree:

In order to ensure the objective nature of information, to exclude the danger of a monopolizing of the radio and television by parties, social and political organizations, and their coalitions, and to ensure the efficient activity of the radio and television on the basis of democratic principles and to the benefit of the state and society, the president of the Republic of Moldova decrees:

Article 1

The National Radio-Television of the Republic of Moldova is abolished.

Article 2

The state company Teleradio Moldova is set up.

Article 3

Those employees laid off from the National Radio-Television of the Republic of Moldova will be assigned to other jobs, in accordance with existing laws.

Article 4

The state company Teleradio Moldova will be run by the chairman of the company and its activity will be coordinated by a Coordinating Council.

Article 5

The management of the state company Teleradio Moldova will work out a draft set of rules for the company and will submit it for approval within a month.

Article 6

Until the passing of the audiovisual law, the state company Teleradio Moldova is empowered to use the radio and television stations operating in the republic, while the Coordinating Council is empowered to coordinate their activity.

Article 7

The appointment and dismissal of the chairman of the state company Teleradio Moldova and the approval of the composition of the Coordinating Council is made by decrees signed by the president of the Republic of Moldova, which will be subsequently confirmed by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. The hiring of employees for the state company Teleradio Moldova will be made on the basis of contracts. In accordance with existing laws, the employees of the state company Teleradio Moldova cannot belong to political parties or social or political organizations.

Article 8

The government will finance the activity of the state company Teleradio Moldova from the republican budget and will take the necessary steps to ensure the company's technological updating.

Article 9

The present decree takes effect on the date of its signing.

The decree is signed by Mr. Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, and is dated 11 March 1994.

Final Results of 27 Feb Elections Announced

AU1203200194 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Report by Cristian Nita from Chisinau]

[Text] The Central Electoral Commission today confirmed [as heard] the results of the 27 February parliamentary elections as follows:

The Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova [PDAM] obtained 43.13 percent of the votes, which amounts to 57 seats in the new parliament;

The Bloc of the Socialist Party and the Edinstvo Unity Movement obtained 22.0 percent of the votes, which equals 28 seats;

The Bloc of Peasants and Intellectuals obtained 9.21 percent of the votes, which equals 11 seats;

The Christian-Democratic Popular Front Alliance obtained 7.53 percent of the votes, which means nine seats in parliament.

The other parties and independent candidates did not obtain the necessary number of votes needed to be represented in parliament.

The Central Electoral Commission will prepare an official report containing all violations of the [electoral] law found during the ballot. The report will then be sent to the Supreme Court of Justice, which will confirm the legality of the ballot within the following 10 days.

Commenting on the results of the parliamentary elections and the [6 March] public opinion poll titled "Consulting With the People" [actually a referendum in which the majority rejected the idea of Moldova's unification with Romania], Dumitru Motpan, the leader of the PDAM—the party that obtained the most seats in parliament—stated to ITAR-TASS that the absolute majority of the people has reasserted its belief in the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. The PDAM will not act to halt reform, but rather it will act to further reform, the PDAM leader said. According to Motpan, the first task is to implement privatization, which will begin by giving land to the peasants. However, generally speaking, the solution to the economic problems depends on whether the state manages to increase labor productivity in Moldova's economy. To that purpose, Moldova will deepen and extend its relations both with the countries belonging to the CIS and with the West, Motpan stated.

According to the MOLDOVA-PRES agency, the PDAM leader also announced that the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova will alter the national anthem, which, said Motpan, is identical with neighboring Romania.

Kazakhstan

Kazakh, Azerbaijan Presidents Discuss Cooperation

LD1103155094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1116 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By KAZTAG correspondent ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Almaty March 11 TASS—President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan met President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan for one-to-one talks during a brief stopover in Almaty on his way back home from China last night.

The presidents told journalists after the meeting that they had discussed prospects for the development of bilateral relations between the two countries.

"The peoples of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan have been bound by ties of friendship and fraternity for a long time, and the question now is how they should better restore former economic, political and other links as two independent countries, and create conditions for mutual beneficial cooperation," the Kazakh leader said.

Geydar Aliyev invited the Kazakh president to pay a visit to Azerbaijan.

Nazarbayev Declares Elections 'Democratic'

LD1103133094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1139 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Speaking on national television Thursday night, President Nursultan Nazarbayev declared that the elections in Kazakhstan on March 7 were democratic.

He said that since the deputies were elected from all population groups they expressed today's public opinion. He reiterated his readiness to actively work with the new parliament for the benefit of Kazakhstan and its multinational populace. He noted that the elections mirrored democracy in Kazakhstan today. "We have not come up to European standards yet, we are on our way to reaching them."

He reported that most CSCE observers, including those from France, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Central Asia, had described the voting in Kazakhstan as very democratic. He noted that only some of the CSCE monitors had held "a news conference unknown to us" without waiting for the election outcome. They alleged at the news conference that many irregularities had gone on record at the polls. Such conclusions, in Nazarbayev's opinion, were improper.

He reported that 37 parties and movements had taken part in the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan. Representatives of 12 nationalities were chosen.

On the so-called state list of candidates, criticized by international observers most of all, the president remarked that the nominees had been selected on an alternative basis. In his words, the state list featured scientists, lawyers, economists, representatives of different nations and ethnic groups, women, and members of various parties and movements.

Nazarbayev on Status of Ties With Russia

PM1103150594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 94 p 4

[Interview with Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan, by Otto Latsis, in Almaty, date not given: "Nursultan Nazarbayev: There Is no Union, All Are Free but They Have no Option but To Resolve Everything Together"]

[Text] [Latsis] Nursultan Abishevich, you are constantly putting forward proposals on the development of bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and Russia and multilateral relations within the CIS framework. Behind your initiative one senses a certain notion of the nature of and prospects for our mutual relations. We are going through a time of agonizing transformation after the collapse of the USSR, the state form in which our unity used to be expressed. The old, imperial form could not exist any longer. But what exists on the territory of the former USSR is essentially a single economy, an aggregate of common geopolitical interests, and most importantly, a human unity, an aggregate of personal ties, a community of culture, and a community of historical destiny. To realize this unity, which is an objective fact, it is necessary to elaborate a new system of state relations or, nowadays, interstate relations. What do you think about that?

[Nazarbayev] The situation in the CIS and in Russia itself now is such that no politician can entirely predict what is going to happen tomorrow. Concrete ideas change but it is possible to show what we are constantly striving towards. I would like to return to the time when it was still possible to do everything differently, back to 1990. During the routine Congress of USSR People's Deputies the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan met at my residence in Moscow. By the end of 1990 it was obvious that the ship of state was moving without a rudder or a sail. We wanted to try to save the unity with states which felt the same way. At that time only four states were ready to create a new union on the basis of sovereignty. The corresponding document was drawn up and we all signed it. Russia was represented by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. We could see that the Baltic region was leaving, Armenia and Azerbaijan were at loggerheads, and Georgia was still under the influence of the April events in Tbilisi—everything was heading toward disintegration. The next day I asked Gorbachev whether he would agree to head our undertaking if we created the appropriate nucleus and then waited to see who else would join in. I believe that the attitude of the rest would have been far more favorable. But he categorically refused, he was convinced that he would hold on to them all and that even the Baltic would reconsider. Then he began the well-known Novo-Ogarevo process in which he included all the Russian autonomous formations, there were 50 of us sitting there, it was a shambles. We could not reach a single decision, everyone defended his own corner.

I took part in all of this simply because I realized what the result of a breakdown of ties would be if we started ripping a living organism to shreds. That is what we are going through now. There is no Union, everyone is free, but those who, by their actions, prompted this disintegration did not foresee the consequences of it. Possession of the outer trappings of independence does not mean that each country is capable of pursuing a sovereign foreign policy and of ensuring national security—national not in the sense of ethnic but in the sense generally accepted in the world: not just state security but also stability in the economy and in all spheres of life.

Then the Belovezhskaya accords were signed. They could have been prepared differently, the stages could have been thought through differently, but by that time there was no single, manageable state left. In other words, we were inevitably moving toward the conditions that we have now.

[Latsis] Surely it may now be said that all the inevitable defects of the Belovezhskaya accords were the price to be paid for the rejection of the proposals of your group of four a year earlier. The logic of the accords was ultimately what you thought it would be: If all the republics were not ready at a given moment to take the new path together it was necessary to create a nucleus of those which were ready. But by December 1991 only Russia constituted such a nucleus because Ukraine was increasingly a victim of certain delusions.

[Nazarbayev] Perhaps I will be criticized for being a victim of my upbringing—I grew up in a single state where we did everything together—but there are nevertheless certain pragmatic considerations here. When such scientific and technical progress and such a struggle for market territory are going on, the only way to survive is through unification. The countries of Western Europe, with their 1,000 years of statehood, are moving toward unification—Mitterrand has even begun talking about a confederation. Because they understand that several poles of tremendous competition are developing in the world. There is North America, the Far East from Japan to the new "tiger" states, and the Asian continent, which is being revitalized.

[Latsis] I would find it difficult to determine on the spur of the moment just where Kazakhstan would fit into that geography.

[Nazarbayev] That is the whole question. It is our fate, the fate of the former Union republics, that we have the ability and need to resolve and do many things together. There are forms and mechanisms of ties and management and a mentality that are only characteristic of this area, the former USSR. Now the crisis of the social system is being aggravated by the crisis of the breakdown of state unity and all this contributes elements of social confusion which intensify the political crises and conflicts. We want to minimize the economic and social consequences of the destruction of the Union.

Of course, there is no need to revive the empire, which denationalized the republics, and no one wants to do that. But the demands of the economy are objective and do not depend on national borders. Unfortunately, our practical attempts to settle things have been running into some incomprehensible suspicions. The prime minister of Kazakhstan has just recently put forward proposals on an Interstate Economic Council and immediately people begin asking: What is this—a new USSR Council of Ministers? But there are such things as the European Parliament, the Commission of the European Union, and common interstate organs.

[Latsis] But they did not begin with the European Parliament. They began even before the creation of the "Common Market" with the European Coal and Steel Community.

[Nazarbayev] That is what I propose. I invited all the CIS industry ministers to Karaganda last year and proposed such an association. Incidentally, at a meeting of CIS leaders an agreement on a coal and steel trust was signed. But we are not in the same position as Western Europe. Why should we take 30 years to travel that road when we have had far closer unity for a long time already? The Economic Union, the draft for which was elaborated in Kazakhstan, envisages the conclusion of a customs union and a currency union, the creation of a common economic area, and the coordination of foreign economic policy.

[Latsis] The currency union question causes alarm in Russia. When we tried to preserve the single ruble zone Russia often footed the bill for its neighbors' money emission.

[Nazarbayev] Now that the national currency has been introduced we can see that Kazakhstan can stand on its own two feet, just like Russia. But is isolation beneficial to us? Our Ekibastuz sends a large part of its coal to Russia. Unless Russia invests money in its development we will simply not be able to maintain it, it is geared toward the whole Union. There is coal in Russia, it could be used in place of our supplies, but how many trillions will it cost to produce it? In addition, the Sokolovsko-Sarbayskiy combine fully supplies Magnitka and other plants in the Urals with ore. We can sell that ore to other countries but how much time and money will it cost Russia to get its ore elsewhere? Russia can also us its own oil to replace Kazakhstan's oil, which keeps refineries in the Volga region working, but that, too, will involve great expense. On the other hand, if we lose our supplies from Russia we will have to build enormous machine building plants of our own. We do not want to do that but we have to take our own interests into account, too. The virgin lands needs Kirov tractors, but they already cost more than the world price and for the world price we can buy better tractors elsewhere.

Take our ties with Ukraine. Two years ago the Ukrainians cut off their supply of pipes to us, pipes which we have always received in exchange for metal bars from Karaganda. They told us—we will sell it all to the West and give you nothing. We said: fine. Within a year a pipe manufacturing machine was installed at the Karaganda combine—with the Russians' help. We were denied construction metal—again we installed a machine. Buses from Lvov, refrigerators, we will sell the whole lot over there, they said, and give you nothing more. This year they are saying: Take whatever you need: pipes, refrigerators, buses, sugar. But we are saying: We have already bought all these things and have begun making some of them ourselves.

A single economic area must be created. So far, after two and one-half years, there isn't a single effective coordinating organ to simply monitor what work is being done to fulfill the agreements and report back to the presidents. It is necessary to harmonize legislation—customs, currency, and taxation legislation. Incidentally, in 1991 after the putsch we created the State Council and the Interstate Economic Committee, Yavlinskiy and others were appointed there, and 26 relevant coordinated documents were prepared. On 11 October 11 states met here in Almaty and signed the economic agreement which was ratified a few days later in Moscow.

[Latsis] The day before the State Council session where all this was decided Yavlinskiy came to our editorial office to ask for support and I was instructed to write an article for the next day. We supported all this with great enthusiasm but we could see that the chances of achieving a common accord were not great. Ukraine, and not just Ukraine, could not see what lay ahead if we did not go down the road of reforms together.

[Nazarbayev] Yes, here in Almaty Fokin signed the document but in Moscow he merely attended the signing, only seven or eight states signed. Yavlinskiy's group worked very conscientiously then and prepared some excellent documents but clearly you learn some things only from bitter experience. After all, in those days, when there was no market plan, each one believed that the rest were living off him. Turkmenia believed that the others were getting rich from its gas. In Russia's case, from its oil. Kazakhstan also believed that it was being ripped off, and so on.

But even then I believed and still do believe that we need integration and that under certain conditions Russia could be the core of it. But what we want is Russia to make up its own mind what kind of state it is building. If it wants to continue following the course of its thousand-year old historical pattern as the ultimate foundation of the building of a superstate, that is one thing, if we are friendly neighbors to one another, that is a different matter. But some Russian leaders suffer from euphoric notions about the possibility of full integration into the Western world, then they suddenly turn toward Asia and there are statements from state figures about Russia's special rights and duties on the territory of the former Union, which cause great uproar throughout the world. Of course a new state needs time to determine its interests and establish its own policy and we for our part are ready to regard these inevitable quests with understanding and patience. But when people talk about the possible division of Kazakhstan, about claims to its territory, and about threats to Russia emanating from the territory of the former USSR, my first question is this: When did Kazakhstan cut itself off from Russia? What grounds are there for suspicions? People often ask me: You are constantly calling for the strengthening of relations with Russia and you speak about all Russians, ethnic and otherwise, with great respect. Why do we not hear the same kind of thing from Russia's leaders about all the Kazakhs, ethnic and otherwise?

The question of the migration of the Russians from Kazakhstan is being raised and in that connection it is being suggested to us that we introduce dual citizenship to guarantee their rights. However, that will not lead to equality of rights, on the contrary, it will bestow on the Russian citizens of our state dual rights and thus dual obligations. Then the Kazakhs—whether I want it or not—will begin having doubts about the loyalty of their Russian fellow citizens who are simultaneously citizens of another state.

[Latsis] Fortunately there is no need to insist on that option. But people must be reassured somehow. You can promise whatever you like but people have lost faith after what happened in Tajikistan, Fergana, and Osh. They may believe your government when it says that it has no evil designs but will the government be able to protect them if anything happens?

[Nazarbayev] I put forward a proposal on how to resolve this problem and Kozyrev agreed with me. Lat us work to ensure that the border between our states is always transparent. Let us make mutual commitments toward the citizens of our states just in case any of them ever want to change citizenship. If someone moves from Kazakhstan to Russia, give him citizenship there. If a German moves away from here he receives a German passport and thus becomes a German citizen. Why should we not do that? Kazakhstan for its part makes the commitment that if a person decides, during the course of a year, for example, that he cannot settle down somewhere else and wants to return he will get citizenship of Kazakhstan back again.

Meanwhile, the migration statistics do not always reveal the real processes. The exodus of Russians from Kazakhstan is far from always due to problems of interethnic relations, citizenship, and the like. Take Kurchatov, a city which for a long time did not appear on the map. This is the Semipalatinsk test range. Some 27,000 people have moved away from there. But these are exclusively military people or people connected with military nuclear research. They were never citizens, they were always seconded here from Russia and now there is no work for them any more. There is also Priozersk on the shores of Lake Balkhash, a city which is not shown on the maps—it is a test range pure and simple. Some 25,000 people have left that place. In West Kazakhstan there is the city of Emba, it is not on the maps, they used to carry out rocket launches there—people have left it, too. And the whole of Leninsk which they have now begun to mention by name—previously they only talked about Baykonur—is also leaving as the programs are being scaled down. How can we hold onto them?

We would like treaties with Russia on all these questions: on military cooperation, including the extension of the work of our 50 defense enterprises to Russia, and on the terms of the lease and use of the Baykonur cosmodrome—this is in both sides' interests. Russia cannot contemplate the cost of building another comsodrome right now and we do not want the center to fade away.

All these questions will be examined at the forthcoming meeting with the Russian President. But the main thing—which applies not just to this meeting—is that we need understanding and full trust between our countries. Not to mention the various fabrications about Kazakhstan's position on various questions which constantly crop up in the press and in speeches by individual politicians. But the main problem is not one of fabrications or gossip. In the activity of some Russian politicians you sometimes hear echoes of familiar Soviet ideas: Moscow's interests are paramount, the rest must adapt to them. I proceed from the premise that Kazakhstan has its own legitimate interests but so do our partners.

[Latsis] It is of course perfectly normal for a country to have interests of its own. But if you disregard the speculation and simple misunderstandings you will see that Russia is looking after its own interests, too. I, for example, understand the reasons why Shokhin insisted on very tough conditions for the continued functioning of the common ruble zone—it is a different matter that I do not understand why such principledness has not been shown in regard to Belarus. But perhaps agreement would have been reached with Kazakhstan, too, if you had observed the same tough restrictions on emission as, for example, Latvia did. Admittedly, Russia itself did not observe the same kind of financial rigor either.

[Nazarbayev] We had our reasons for easing off, we were trying to lighten the social problems of people cut off from the former common state. However, the Russian side's strict demands on the financial question are understandable. The only thing that I cannot understand is why they did not tell us this before and, what is more, I cannot understand the exchange of banknotes operation after which money no longer valid in Russia was dumped on Kazakhstan for three months through every available channel.

[Latsis] That action by Gerashchenko was bound to cause nothing but indignation. We at IZVESTIYA wrote that it was blatantly aimed against the former republics of the USSR and furthermore that it would do Russia itself no good. But many things in what Russia actually does and even more so in the things it fails to do are due not to malice but to the fact that it cannot do everything. Until September-October last year, furthermore, there was a power struggle going in Russia and as far as some politicians were concerned relations with the former Soviet republics were simply fodder for that struggle.

[Nazarbayev] That is precisely what I want to avoid in the future. Russia and Kazakhstan are linked by deep and permanent mutual interests which exist objectively regardless of any short-term considerations, intrigues, or misunderstandings. It is this real interest in cooperation and the community of our interests which must determine our actions.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov on Murder of Deputy Premier

LD1203172494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Emomali Rakhmanov, head of the Tajik state, has described the murder of Mayonsho Nazarshoyev, the deputy chairman of Tajikistan's Council of Ministers, as a planned political act. He said this today at a mourning ceremony of farewell that took place outside the national parliament building. The Tajik leader stressed that, by this terrorist act, committed on the night of 10-11 March, certain extremist forces had reckoned on causing fear and confusion among the people of the republic, and on frustrating the peace efforts of the country's leadership to attain civil peace and national reconciliation. But they miscalculated, Emomali Rakhmanov declared.

Meanwhile, ITAR-TASS reported, citing trustworthy sources, two persons have been arrested on suspicion of the murder of the deputy prime minister of Tajikistan.

Manhunt for Assassins Launched

LD1103125294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1233 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By KHOVAR news agency correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe March 11 TASS—The procurator's office of Tajikistan on Friday [11 Friday] circulated a statement about the atrocious assassination of the republic's vice-premier Mayonsho Nazarshoyev.

The statement points out that the assassination was "committed in the Tajik capital by two members of an anti-state criminal gang headed by Mullo Kasym".

The assassins fled from the scene of the crime. On their way they stopped an oncoming VAZ-469 car being driven by a policeman. The criminals seized the policeman's gun and inflicted gunshot wounds on him. Later on the criminals attacked a food-laden truck, brutally beat its driver and rode the vehicle in the direction of Semiganch village of Kofarnikhon District.

The law enforcement agencies of Tajikistan brought it to the notice of the general public that Said Abdullah Nuri, leader of a self-proclaimed "government-in-exile", who is now in Afghanistan, had urged individual groups, who avoid prosecution for particularly grave crimes against their state to put vigorous pressure on the Tajik Government in order to destabilise the socio-political situation in the republic and fan up ethnic strife by using measures of intimidation, terror and physical removal of persons unwelcome to the opposition, particulary democratic-minded people and to work out plans for armed actions and other acts of sabotage.

The Tajikistan prosecutor-general's office has instituted criminal proceedings against the assassins of the vice-premier. A manhunt for the assassins was launched.

Two Arrested for Murder

LD1203171094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1137 GMT 12 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe, 12 Mar—Two people were detained on suspicion of murdering Deputy Prime Minister Mayonsho Nazarshoyev on Thursday [11 March] evening. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this today from reliable sources in the republic's law enforcement bodies. At the same time, [spokesmen] at the republic's Ministries of Internal Affairs and Security would neither confirm or deny this fact, confining themselves to saying that a search operation was underway and any information on the subject could not be disclosed for the time being.

At the same time, a highly-placed official from one of the power ministries was highly skeptical of the statement distributed to the mass media by the press center of the republic's procuracy general yesterday on the direct involvement in the act of terrorism of the antigovernment group of Mullo Kasym, in hiding in Kofirnikhonskiy rayon, a Dushanbe city suburb. This is only one of the many versions being worked on together with the other law enforcement bodies of the republic, he said. However, according to the source, experienced professionals have been called in in the search operation and one can rest assured that the real criminals will be found shortly.

Opposition Denounces Murder

LD1103200794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1848 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe March 11 TASS—The Tajik illegal opposition denounced today's murder of Vice-Premier Mayonsho Nazarshoyev.

A statement of the Tajik opposition leaders voiced their "complete non-involvement" in the crime and said "Nazarshoyev was expected to head the Dushanbe Government delegation at negotiations with the opposition on March 16".

The murder "is beneficial only to numerous mafia-criminal structures", says the statement. "We need negotiations. They will enable our supporters to return home, to Tajikistan. Negotiations is peace," notes the document.

President Appeals for 'Restraint,' 'Calm'

PM1003150194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 94 p 1

[TURKMEN PRESS report: "The Manat Will Not Let You Down"]

[Text] Turkmen President S. Turkmenbashi [Niyazov] has given an interview to journalists from Turkmenistan National Television. Regarding certain difficulties connected with the transition period, the head of state advised working people and the country's entire population not to be taken in by idle chatterers and people who try to make these problems out to be large and intractable. Saparmurat Turkmenbashi appealed to his countrymen not to trust the widespread rumors about the Turkmen manat, to maintain their restraint and keep calm. Certain shortages in the supply of food and other goods to the population, the president noted, are mainly attributable to the fact that a number of states have paid their debts to Turkmenistan at an inconvenient time.

Decree on State Organizations Foreign Currency

LD1203214994 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 0200 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Decree by Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov on measures for clarifying the money circulation]

[Text] Taking into consideration the difficulties that have come about in connection with the failure of CIS Governments in payment of their debt due to natural gas, power, and other products they receive from Turkmenistan, until the end of the year 1994:

1. State factories, organizations, and departments, must submit 50 percent of their foreign currency income from their products abroad, to the government fund.

2. They must submit 60 percent of their natural gas and gas condensate and petroleum products to the government fund.

3. In order to implement the calculations concerning the daily trade operations and provide the sale in the Interbank Foreign Currency Stock Exchange, nonstate factories and organizations must be relieved of definitely transferring their funds to the government Foreign Currency Fund.

4. It must be understood that the state Foreign Currency Funds are useful for the purchase, under instructions from the president, of foodstuffs, medicine, goods, and products that are of importance for the state, payment of the state debts, protecting the stability of the exchange of foreign currency, and also for complementing the State Foreign Currency Funds.

[Signed] Saparmurad Turkmenbashy [Niyazov], president of Turkmenistan.

New Ministers, Officials Announced

LD1303120594

[Editorial Report] Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian at 0200 GMT on 10 March 1994 in a two-minute broadcast reports that after edicts were issued by President Niyazov, a new organization called Turkmenprod Aktsiyoner Association [Turkmen Joint Food Company] has been established. Minister of Social Justice (Alovov) has been removed from his post to become the head of the above-mentioned food association. Edicts have also made the following changes: Aksoltan Toreyevna Atayeva has been appointed minister of social security of Turkmenistan. Therefore, she has been relieved of her duties as minister of health of Turkmenistan. Tuwkabibi Gurbanovna Durdyyeva has been relieved of her duties as deputy governor of the city of Ashgabat in connection with her transfer to another job. Abad Sehedovna Irzayeva has been appointed deputy chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan. Kakjan Achyrovich Achyrov has been appointed minister of Motor Transport.

Armenia

National Council Speaker: No Agreement Signed

LD1303171194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1605 GMT 13 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 13 Mar—The heads of the Armenian and Azerbaijani parliaments did not sign any documents whatsoever during their meeting on Saturday, Babken Ararktsyan, the chairman of the Supreme Council of Armenia, has said. In an interview with ITAR-TASS he described as groundless today's reports that agreements were signed at the meeting. Such claims, he said, pursue purely propaganda motives, and Azerbaijan is passing off as fact its versions of a regional peace settlement.

Ararktsyan recalled that at the meeting various suggestions were made regarding a cease-fire and peace guarantees, which could be based on the CSCE's Vienna timetable, Russian proposals, and also other possibilities.

Azeri, Armenian Officials Meet

LD1203175694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1506 GMT 12 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 12 Mar—On the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, a meeting between Babken Ararksyan and Rasul Guliyev, the heads of parliaments of those two republics, began this afternoon. The first stage of the meeting is being held in Azerbaijan's Kazakhskiy Rayon, near the border. The meeting will subsequently be continued in Idzhevanskiy rayon in the northeast of Armenia.

The talks are taking place in camera, but it is known that the heads of the legislative bodies of Armenia and Azerbaijan are discussing the problem of settling the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh—specifically, ways of achieving a cease-fire in the region affected by the conflict.

Aliyev Statement Interpreted as 'Recognition'

NC1203134794 Yerevan SNARK in English 1015 GMT 12 Mar 94

["Geydar Aliyev Recognizes Karabakh a Conflict Side"—SNARK headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 12 (SNARK)—The declaration recently done by the Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev could be considered a sensation, Felix Mamikonyan, an Armenian ambassador to Russia, told journalists at his press-conference. Geydar Aliyev said he is ready to consider the status of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh if only the Karabakh troops leave for their territory. Thus, the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh is officially recognized a conflict side, though Azerbaijan was always avoiding doing it. But, according to Mamikonyan, the Aliyev's declaration gives no mechanism of conflict regulation.

Mr. Mamikonyan also confirmed Karabakh for numerous times declared he has a claim on the lands of Azeris and is ready to set them free as soon as the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh security is solved.

Parliament Releases Statement on Karabakh Talks

LD1303114194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1122 GMT 13 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan March 13 TASS—Armenian and Azerbaijani parliament chiefs, Babken Ararktsyan and Rasul Guliyev, met at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border on Saturday to discuss matters connected with a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, a spokesman in the press centre of the Armenian Parliament told ITAR- TASS.

The two sides considered ways to resolve the Karabakh conflict in the light of Russia's mediatory initiative and the peacemaking mission of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Araktsyan said the Armenian side, as a gesture of goodwill, stated its readiness to ensure the transit of all freight by rail across Armenian territory from Turkey to the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and the transmission of electric power for Nakhichevan through the Armenian power grid.

At the close of the meeting, the Armenian parliament chief said the Azerbaijani side is inclined to recognise Nagorno-Karabakh as a full-fledged participant in the talks.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and constructiveness, Guliyev pointed out. He agreed with his Armenian counterpart that the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh can be resolved only politically, not militarily.

Bilateral consultations will be continued, the chiefs of two parliaments said, according to the spokesman.

Official: Russia, Iran Keys to Peace

NC1203202694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1225 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 12. (SNARK)—Most resultive in settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict may become the initiatives stemming from Russia and Iran, told SNARK today Larissa Allaverdyan, the head expert of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) Commission in Armenian parliament. In her opinion, these two states are not only participants of peacemaking processes, but also bear responsibility in the international-law aspect, in front of the world community, for resolution of Karabakh problem.

Russia and Iran, told the expert, are historically the last title-holders of Karabakh. Joint initiatives, should they stem form Russia and Iran, would have been in the interests of all world states, and not only of Transcaucasus population, said Larissa Allaverdyan.

Attack on Nagorno-Karabakh Front Unsuccessful

NC1203133294 Yerevan SNARK in English 1015 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Stepanakert, March 12 (SNARK)— No success met Azeris this morning undertaking a current attack in the direction of the Novruzlu settlement at the eastern part of the Karabakh front. Having losses the attackers had to retreat, press-service of the Karabakh Defense Army told SNARK.

No success met Azeris yesterday evening in the Agdam direction. Losses aren't being reported.

Eastern two-day offensive Azeris undertake is connected with the considerable failure they met at the south-eastern parts of the front, according to the military experts' opinion.

Karabakh Accuses Azeri Media of Disinformation

NC1203135494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1015 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Stepanakert, March 12 (SNARK)—Today the Press-Service of the Karabakh Foreign Department spread the declaration which says that the Azerbaijani mass media issued reports which cite statements First Deputy of the Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Adamishin did at his meeting with Rasul Kuliyev, speaker of the Azerbaijani Milli Majlis, which taken place in Baku March 7. Mr. Adamishin as if [i.e. allegedly] said Russia speaks for territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and autonomy for Nagorno-Karabakh. Such statement do not contribute to the solution of the conflict because [they] determine the status of Nagorno-Karabakh beforehand. The status of Nagorno-Karabakh could be determined only as a result of the negotiations following all the norms of international law.

The declaration also says the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh hopes Foreign Affairs Department of Russia will give an estimation to such attempts of disinformation, torpedoing the process of negotiations with the Russian intermediary role. [sentence as received]

President Discusses Karabakh With Press Editors

NC1103220794 Yerevan SNARK in English 1531 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 11 (SNARK)—Today Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the President of Armenia, met with the editors of the newspapers issuing in Armenia.

SNARK was told by the press-secretary of the president that during the meeting they discussed, mainly, the questions concerning Karabakh conflict. According to the press-secretary the president presented the view point of Armenia's authorities relating to the problem of Karabakh. Zurabian refused to inform about the details of the meeting.

Azeris Responsible for Not Fulfilling Protocol

LD1103212494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2110 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—"The Azeri side is fully responsible for the non-fulfilment of the protocol on termination of combat operations and troops withdrawal signed on February 18 in Moscow by the Armenian and Azeri defence ministers and the Karabakh military representative with participation of the Russian defence minister," Armenian permanent representative to Russia Felix Mamikonyan told a news conference here today.

Despite the fact the document was signed by all the sides, the Azeri side considered its fulfilment impossible and is making new terms.

In the opinion of Mamikonyan, Azerbaijan keeps to the force solution of the Karabakh conflict, which will claim more human lives. The representative linked recent foreign visits of Heydar Aliyev after signing of the Moscow protocol with an attempt to "distance from Russia". He refuted Azeri mass media reports claiming the protocol was signed under the pressure of Pavel Grachev and described the Russian stand in the Karabakh conflict as "restraint and well-balanced".

Asked by ITAR-TASS whether the Armenian side agrees to all items of the protocol, Mamikonyan said it is a compromise document but one shall fulfill it. He did not specify what items are meant referring to the confidential character of the protocol.

A day before Azeri Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary to Russia Ramiz Rizayev told a news conference in Moscow about the Azeri stand on troops pullback at 15 kilometers. In the opinion of the Azeri side, the initial pullback line should be the Karabakh administrative border instead of the line of the sides' contact.

Mamikonyan said in this case Azerbaijan will bring its troops to the Karabakh border and Karabakh populated localities will be in danger again due to the absence of the "security and confidence mechanism".

Speaking of the Armenian troops withdrawal from seized lands, whose temporary control was explained by the representative with military-strategic goals, Mamikonyan said this is impossible to be done without political settlement. "If it is so easy to do the Jews would have left the Golan Heights within a day", he said.

Armenia stands for the introduction of peace-makers into the conflict zone, however, it is more psychologically ready for the introduction of Russian peacemakers, said the representative.

Speaking of the upcoming meeting of the Armenian and Azeri presidents with the mediation of Boris Yeltsin, he said the meeting should be well-prepared, but its date has not been specified.

He confirmed that delegations of the Armenian and Azeri parliaments will meet on the border on Saturday.

World Bank Official Discusses Government Actions

NC1103205394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1243 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 11 (SNARK)—Armenia is considered to be the most reformist out of all republics of the former USSR, declared today the World Bank representative in Armenia Vahram Nersesiants.

Answering SNARK correspondent's question on the appraisal of Armenian Government's concrete actions, Nersesiants noted that Armenia has successfully accomplished land privatization. "Other countries need 20-30 years of persuasions to make such a step", stressed he.

In Nersesiants's view, housing privatization and open trade also provide favorable image for Armenia. However, the reforms in financial system are being postponed. "Yet, strategic course of Armenian economy's development is appraised by the World Bank highly enough", said Vahram Nersesiants.

Comments on Credits

NC1103212094 Yerevan SNARK in English 1311 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 11 (SNARK)—Armenia could get 3 and even 4 times more credits from the World Bank, but for the Karabakh military conflict, Vahram Nersesiants, the representative of the bank in Armenia, said today. At the press-conference in the Yerevan he said that the last year the World Bank gave Armenia 12 million US dollars, and this February, under very profitable conditions, gave a credit of 28 million US dollars for liquidation consequences of the earthquake in 1988. He said that the World Bank probably will give 40 million US dollars for agriculture. It is also expected the World Bank will give credits for development of the energetics and fulfillment of the social programs.

Azerbaijan

Meeting Between Azeri, Armenian Officials Begins

NC1203211094 Baku TURAN in English 1726 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 12) TURAN—A meeting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani speakers of parliament, Babken Ararktsyan and Rasul Guliyev, respectively, begins today. The meeting is to take place at a point along the border between the Azerbaijani district of Kazakh (Azerbaijan) and the district of Idzhevan (Armenia). According to preliminary information available, the sides will discuss settlement options for revolving the conflict peacefully. It was announced that the meeting, which began at around two o'clock in the afternoon, will also include participants from the Georgian parliament.

Agreement To End Conflict Reached

LD1203185394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1721 GMT 12 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman and AZERTAJ correspondent Natig Abdullayev]

[Text] Kazakh (Republic of Azerbaijan), 12 Mar—The Armenian Armed Forces should leave within 20 days the territory of the Gubadlinskiy, Fizulinskiy, Dzhebrailskiy, Kelbadzharskiy Rayons of Azerbaijan that they occupy, and also the populated areas of the Lachinskiy Rayon of the republic, with the exception of the so-called Lachinskiy corridor. A preliminary agreement on this was reached today during talks between Rasul Guliyev and Babken Ararktsyan, head of the parliaments of Azerbaijan and Armenia that took place in the Kazakhskiy Rayon of Azerbaijan on the frontier of the two republics. It went on for about an hour and a half behind closed doors in a specially isolated carriage set up on the border of the two Caucasian republics.

Reporting this at the news conference that took place at the end of the talks, Rasul Guliyev noted that under the accord, the Armed Forces of the warring sides will be simultaneously disengaged from each other by 10 km [as received]. A buffer zone will be created between them. The Armenian side is to withdraw its troops 10 km inside the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, and the Azerbaijani Armed Forces will accordingly occupy the liberated areas to guarantee the safe return of the refugees.

The Azerbaijani parliament speaker said that the buffer zone will be handed over to the control of international observers.

As for the liberation of the Azerbaijani town of Shusha that is also occupied by Armenian troops, according to the chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, this will be discussed during the month at a meeting between experts of the two countries. In line with the planned schedule, this town situated right on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh is to be liberated in two month's time.

Referring to what his Armenian colleague said, Rasul Guliyev stressed that "Armenia has never recognized and will never recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent republic."

According to the statement by the Azerbaijani parliament head, the details of the accord that was reached will be examined specifically in two or three days time in Moscow at a meeting of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense of Azerbaijan and Armenia. He noted that Russia and other intermediaries, including the CSCE, will play their role in the peace-keeping process as before.

Speaking to journalists after the talks ended, Rasul Guliyev and Babken Ararktsyan noted the similarity of their opinions during the discussion of many questions. For instance, both sides agreed that the process of ceasing fire and stopping combat actions was irreversible. They also noted that despite all the complexity of the problem, it can be resolved by peaceful means. The head of the parliament of Armenia stressed in particular, that although representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh were not present at these talks, the Azerbaijani side for the first time did not object to their participation in the meeting. According to him, that bears witness to the fact that the sides are gradually finding points of contact. It was also reported that a meeting between experts of the two countries who are to draw up concrete proposals to achieve peace in the region will take place soon.

Further on Agreement

NC1303060994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Officials of the Republics of Azerbaijan and of Armenia have reached a new agreement on ending the conflict between the two countries. The Central News Unit reports from Baku that on the basis of an agreement reached between the heads of the Armenian and Azerbaijani parliaments, Armenian forces will withdraw from occupied Azerbaijani territories within 20 days.

The television of the Republic of Azerbaijan has announced that on the basis of this agreement, the Lachinskiy corridor will remain in the hands of Armenian forces as a contact route to Nagorno-Karabakh, while Armenia is to lift the economic siege on the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan.

The Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers are to meet in Moscow to discuss the new agreements.

Parliament Heads Comment

LD1303171394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1530 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Video report by correspondent Mais Mamedov, including recorded comment by Armenian Supreme Council Chairman Babken Ararktsyan and Azerbaijani National Council Chairman Rasul Guliyev—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Igor Vykhukholev Prospects for settling the Armenian-Azeri conflict were discussed by the heads of parliaments of the two warring republics in the Transcaucasus.

[Mamedov] Their conversation was conducted behind closed doors, and the only exception was made for Ostankino TV company correspondents. Judging from the large number of cigarette ends [video shows full ashtray], the conversation was far from easy. After all, many problems have accumulated over the six years of confrontation. All the more encouraging that both men say the meeting was very important, and moreover, positive.

[Guliyev] We have reached common understanding that all the territories of Azerbaijan have to be freed. We have reached a common view that some kind of buffer zone has to be created, and that observers with an international status have to be placed there. We have reached a view that after the freeing of the territory of Azerbaijan, the opening of communications and other things, we have to sit at the negotiating table and determine the status of Nagorno- Karabakh.

[Ararktsyan] Our conversation today [as received] was very brief, but on very important issues myself and Mr. Guliyev, and I hope also the leaderships of our two states in general, have some constructive and fruitful approaches, which, I hope, will be put into practice.

Azeris Step Up Offensive on Eastarn Front

LD1203152394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1400 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] As the Azerbaijani army failed to make gains in south-eastern parts of Karabakh, it has been desperately trying for the second day running to break through the Karabakh defences on the eastern section of the front.

A spokesman for the Army Headquarters of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has reported to Interfax that Friday night the Azerbaijanis tried to advance toward Agdam, but their attempt was dashed.

After intensive artillery shelling Saturday morning, the Azerbaijani forces resumed their offensive toward the Novruzlu community. According to reports from Stepanakert, the enemy was forced to retreat to where it had come from with casualties.

Ministry Claims 'Heavy Losses'

LD1303171794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1605 GMT 13 Mar 94

[By AZERTAG correspondent Zyamire Kuliyeva]

[Text] Baku, 13 Mar—Virtually the entire frontline is calm, the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry has reported. Armenian armed forces have had to suspend combat operations after sustaining heavy losses in battles on 5-7 March. Armenia has once again returned to discussing a ceasefire, but the prospect of a ceasefire does not suit some separatist forces, the document says. They demonstrated this once again on 12 March, the day when Rasul Guliyev, the Chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, was meeting Armenian representatives. Grad launchers and tanks fired on Azerbaijani positions in Agdam Rayon and also on the settlement of Ashala Seidakhmedli in Fizuli Rayon. Azerbaijani forces did not succumb to this provocation and to preserve conditions essential for peace talks did not return fire.

Aliyev Completes Visit to China; Returns

NC1203204294 Baku TURAN in English 1726 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 12) TURAN—President Geydar Aliyev returned to Baku after having completed his five-day visit to China.

During his visit, President Aliyev met the leader of the Peoples' Republic of China Jiang Zemin, and Head of State Council, Li Peng, and with other officials of the republic.

The visit resulted in the signing of a number of the documents such as an agreement on friendly relations between the two countries, the beginning of flights, the development of scientific, technical, cultural, and relations, and the promotion of investment.

During the talks, Geydar Aliyev raised the issue of obtaining credit to Azerbaijan. According to official sources this question was resolved during talks between President Geydar Aliyev and Chairman Li Peng. In addition, Li Peng said that China, as the permanent member of the UN Security Council, acknowledges the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and supports it.

Meets Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev

NC1203205394 Baku TURAN in English 1726 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 12) TURAN—On March 10 Geydar Aliyev, on his way back to Baku, made a stop-over in Almaty were he met with the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev. According to official sources, the two leaders discussed bilateral relations. It was agreed that Kazakhstan would deliver grain to Azerbaijan. In addition, was discussed the possibility of the delivering to Baku raw oil from Kazakhstan. In particular, the oil-pipeline from Kazakhstan to Azerbaijan and Europe was discussed.

Towards the end of talks, President Nazarbayev told journalists that "both countries are oil states and have tremendous possibilities for cooperation in different spheres of industry and I believe that our links will develop successfully." Speaking about the Azeri-Armenian conflict, President Nazarbayev said that "the CIS countries must find a way out of the situation-...which can be implemented through the resolutions of the UN Security Council."

President Aliyev said that Azerbaijan attaches great importance to cooperation with Kazakhstan. He said, "President Nazarbayev will visit Azerbaijan in the near future, and approximately ten documents will be signed."

Speaking about the Azeri-Armenian conflict, Geydar Aliyev also pointed to Azerbaijan's readiness to apply the UN Security Council resolution as a model for solving the conflict peacefully. Furthermore, he said that Azerbaijan's territorial integrity must be provided. He also said that the CIS has many opportunities.

Court Sentences Aliyev's Would-Be Assassins

NC1203154094 Baku AZERTAC in English 1408 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Baku, March 12 (AZERTAC)—A trial for an attempt on President Aliyev's life was finished at the High Court of Azerbaijan today. The defendants guilt was established. The court sentenced Aydin Gassimov as an organizer and Abil Babayev as an accomplice to 12 years imprisonment. However they did not plead guilty.

A student from Turkey Hassan Toku, whom conspirators planned to be the assassin, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. The court, giving this judgment, took into consideration his honest confession and the fact that he had been a help with investigation. Cases of the other two defendants—Nariman Mamedov and Ali Askerov—were sent to additional inquiry because of inadequate evidence. Additional inquiry is also necessary because the two accomplices of the conspiracy aimed at attempt on president's life went into hiding.

Troop Buildup in Nakhichevan Reported

LD1203191194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1622 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Paramilitary and riot police, as well as army, units have again started massing in the Ordubadskiy District and around the village of Kelekiy of the Ordubadskiy District in the Nakhichevan autonomy of Azerbaijan. That is what the Secretary of State on the Elchibey Administration, Ali Kerimov, has told Interfax. Kelekiy is the home village of ousted President Elchibey.

In Kerimov's view, government forces are attempting to disarm the Ordubad garrison which is loyal to Abulfaz Elchibey.

The local authorities, with their heavy representation of the opposition Popular Front, have sent protests to Baku and Nakhichevan.

Ali Kerimov holds the Baku Administration led by President Aliyev responsible for the negative developments in Ordubad.

The press center of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Internal Affairs says, however, it has had no information on developments around Elchibey's home village.

Front Building Remains Under Police Control

LD1003172594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1149 GMT 10 Mar 94

[Text] The building of the Baku-based headquarters of Azerbaijan's Popular Front (APF) has been under police control for the 13th day already, a source in the APF apparatus reported to Interfax.

Azerbaijan's law-enforcement bodies blocked the building after they found ammunitions and uniforms in the building's basement. The APF leadership declared that part of the building is occupied by the apparatus of the executive power of Baku's Sabaylskiy Region and announced that they have nothing to do with the discovered objects.

The APF representative declared that after the Front was removed from power last summer, the headquarters has remained under actual supervision of the police and was repeatedly subjected to searches.

The source expressed fear that the authorities would take the APF building situated in the center of Baku. He reported that the APF signboard was removed from the building on March 9.

Azerbaijan's ex-president Abulfaz Elchibey who is hiding in his native village of Keleki in the Nakhichevan autonomous republic now is chairman of the Front.

Interfax interlocutor also underlined that normal work of the Front has been paralyzed due to the fact that the headquarters building remains under police control. He reminded that the last sitting of the APF majlis was held under illegal conditions.

The Majlis of Azerbaijan's Popular Front made a decision to abstain from mass actions of protest despite the authorities' attempts to draw the Front into confrontation.

Georgia

Shevardnadze, Clinton Agree on 'Major' Issues

LD1403130194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 14 Mar 94 TEXT:

[Text] The Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told INTERFAX that he had reached an understanding with U.S. President Bill Clinton "on all major issues, notably the sending of international peace keeping forces to Abkhazia."

"A decision to this effect, which will not be easy to materialize, has to be made by the UN Security Council and have proper financing backing," Shevardnadze said. In his words, the financing issue was solved to all practical purposes during his visit. "I have assurances from both the President and Congress," he emphasized.

Shevardnadze said that "the proposal that international peace keeping units be sent was supported by nearly every member of the UN Security Council."

According to Shevardnadze, the Security Council session at which he "outlined what had happened in Abkhazia, the causes and consequences of those events and the situation there now" showed understanding and denounced separatist extremism, fascism and genocide of the Georgian population. "The Russian, U.S., British, Chinese, French and other ambassadors to the UN Security Council gave their full support to the policy pursued by Georgia for the resolution of the conflict and for territorial unity and sovereignty of Georgia," Shevardnadze emphasized.

Shevardnadze said the Security Council resolution on the sending of peace keeping troops, expected to be passed on March 21, would become "an important, if not decisive, contribution to the resolution of the Abkhazian crisis and so to neutralization of a source of larger danger. ...It is essential that this action be taken under UN auspices."

Shevardnadze thought that his visit to the U.S. and UN "was a major step" towards resolving the Abkhazian conflict.

Shevardnadze's interview is published in full in INTERFAX's Monday edition of the Presidential Bulletin.

U.S. Defense To Send Delegation to Georgia

LD1203220894 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] During his official visit to the United States, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state, who combines the defense minister's duties, had a meeting with the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry in the Pentagon.

Issues concerning the development of a close U.S.-Georgian cooperation in the defense and security sphere in Caucasia were discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Shevardnadze and Mr. Perry spoke of the first steps in the cooperation, namely, the sending of the first U.S. military attache to Georgia, a draft international program of instructing and training Georgian military specialists, an interest taken by Georgia in a program "For well-being and partnership" suggested by NATO, and Georgia's intention to participate in the implementation of the program along with Russia and Ukraine.

The sides reached an agreement on having a Georgian military attache sent to Washington.

According to Secretary Perry, the United States aspires to continue a program of cooperation in defense that would contribute to restructuring the Georgian military complex in the conditions of democracy and civil control [as received].

Mr. Perry said that he intends to send a U.S. Department of Defense delegation, which would include senior officials of the department, to Georgia in May. The delegation will discuss issues of security, assess current military reforms in Georgia, and finally submit recommendations for further steps in strengthening defense cooperation between Georgia and the United States to the U.S. Defense Department head.

Poll Shows Optimism on Shevardnadze's U.S. Visit

LD1303110994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Now we have a report from ANI [Agentstvo Novostei Informatsii]. The central Georgian newspaper 'Respublika Gruziya' is publishing data from a lightning poll carried out in Tbilisi on the theme: what political and economic changes are expected after the visit by Shevarnadze to the United States?

More than 41 percent of those asked expect an improvement in the economic and political situation in the republic. More than 16 percent of those polled expect positive changes only in the economic sphere, and around five percent say only in the political field. And 27 percent believe that nothing will change.

Shevardnadze Comments on Visit to Canada

LD1103145294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0610 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Setunskiy]

[Text] Ottawa, 11 Mar—Talks between Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze, who paid a one-day working visit to Canada, ended in the Canadian capital on Thursday evening with the signing of a Canadian-Georgian declaration of friendship and cooperation.

The talks, which were attended by Canadian External Affairs Minister Andre Ouellet and Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze, centered on the situation in Georgia, the UN's possible role in settling it, Canada's assistance, and also questions of Canadian-Georgian relations.

"We realize perfectly well that the situation in Georgia is an extremely difficult one, and we would like to help it, particularly with supplies of Canadian wheat, and also technical assistance," Jean Chretien said at a meeting with journalists at the end of the talks. In a brief response, Eduard Shevardnadze expressed gratitude to Canada for its understanding of Georgia's problems and for its expression of solidarity with it. He noted that the signed declaration is a good basis for the further development of relations between the two countries.

Canadian External Affairs Minister Andre Ouellet, in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, said: "We discussed the situation in Georgia in the context of the task to achieve peace in that region. He (Shevardnadze) asked Canada for support in setting up the UN peacekeeping forces. The prime minister made it clear that he would give such support and would inform the United Nstions that the implementation of the peace mission is an urgent task. The prime minister made it clear that because of the very important commitments we have undertaken at this time in Bosnia and Croatia, it would be difficult for us to send troops (to Georgia), but the prime minister expressed a readiness to do so if the United Nstions requests that a certain number of technical and military advisors, which could become an inalienable part of the peacekeeping mission, should be sent."

At the conclusion of the visit, Eduard Shevardnadze was received by Canadian Governor-General Ramon Hnatyshyn, after which he left Ottawa for home.

Report of Shevardnadze, Ardzhinba Meeting Denied

NC1203201194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1324 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, MARCH 12. (SNARK)—The spread by the Georgian mass media information about the meeting of the Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, with Vladislav Ardzinba, the Abkhazian leader, that allegedly has taken place in the USA isn't the true. SNARK was informed about it by the Abkhazian Representatives' Office. According to them such an information has a provocative character and times for the adopted by the Georgian parliament decree on the dissolution of the Abkhazian parliament.

Liberation Union Plans To Return to Abkhazia

LD1103165994 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 11 Mar—An IBERIA news agency correspondent has been told by Boris Kakubava, member of the Georgian parliament, that the Abkhazian Liberation

Union has drafted a plan to return to Abkhazia: "We will soon be in Abkhazia, in our territory, in our homes. We will wipe away everyone who stands in our way, no matter who they are—Russian troops or those of the Georgian authorities," Boris Kakubava said.

Decision To Dissolve Abkhaz Parliament Deplored

LD1103133694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1139 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] The Abkhazi Parliament's Spokesman Beslan Barganjia has declared that the Georgian Parliament's decision to dissolve Abkhazia's Supreme Soviet "is a provocative attempt to destabilize the situation in the republic."

In an interview with Interfax on Friday, he declined to comment on the legal aspects of Tbilisi's decision but stressed that "it is for the people of Abkhazia rather than for the parliament of Georgia—an aggressor country—to decide on Abkhazia's future."

Meanwhile, the Abkhazi lawmaker Yuriy Voronov has remarked in an interview with Interfax: "Georgia's parliament could just as well dismiss U.S. Congress or Russian parliament."

The Abkhazi legislator Lev Damenia, for his part, argues that "the Georgian parliament's resolution reaffirms that republic's further reliance on force as a means to resolve the Abkhazi issue."

Yet another Abkhazi lawmaker Vladimir Zantaria has suggested that "the decision was undoubtedly prompted by Georgia's desire to set up an international administration in Abkhazia, but that would be occupation already."

Abkhazia's First Deputy Premier, lawmaker Leonid Lakerbaya, has declared that "any decision to deploy peacekeepers in Abkhazia would be possible only within the framework of the Geneva accords. The decision testifies to Georgia's rejection of constructive political dialogue," he said.

An Interfax correspondent polled 53 Sukhumi residents on Friday. All respondents declared that the decision was illegal. 85 percent of them regard it as a step toward renewed fighting.

Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Refuses to Dissolve

LD1103175494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1417 GMT 11 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi March 11 TASS—The Supreme Soviet (parliament) of Georgia's breakaway province of Abkhazia said on Friday it would not obey the Georgian Parliament's ruling disbanding the Abkhazian supreme legislature.

The Abkhazian Information and Press Ministry released today a statement by the separatist parliament stressing that the decision by Georgian lawmakers proved to their ignoring legal norms. "The existing constitutions of Georgia and of Abkhazia do not provide for dissolution of Abkhazia's supreme legislature by the Georgian Parliament", the statement said. "By taking this decision, lawmakers probably sought to disrupt negotiations for a peaceful settlement in Abkhazia", it noted.

The Abkhazian Parliament reiterated its commitment to a peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. It claimed that the decisions passed by the Georgian legislature had nothing to do with the Republic of Abkhazia and only led to spiralling tensions in Georgian-Abkhazian relations.

People's Front: Georgia's CIS Membership Illegal

LD1103183494 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi 11 [date as received]—According to information received by the IBERIA news agency, the Governing Council of the People's Front of Georgia has made the following statement:

"On 1 March 1994, the Georgian Supreme Council ratified Georgia's joining the CIS, thus actually making an attempt to legalize the loss of Georgia's statehood and Georgia's incorporation into a modernized empire. The People's Front Governing Council considers this contradicts the law due to the following:

1. The act on the restoration of Georgian state independence adopted unanimously by the legally elected Georgian Supreme Council on 9 April 1991 was based on a nationwide referendum held on 31 March 1991, during which 98 percent of the population of Georgia voted for Georgia's independence. It is unlawful to make decisions on a complete or partial cancellation (limitation) [agency parentheses] of Georgia's independence by the way other than a referendum;

2. Georgia's joining the CIS contradicts the law of the Republic of Georgia on defense that recognizes Georgia's active neutrality and nonalignment with military blocs;

3. More than a half of the total number of members of the Supreme Council voted for Georgia's joining the CIS. However, such a decision can only be taken by a qualified majority.

Estonia

President Leaves on Visits to Israel, Ukraine

LD1303162894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri has left Tallinn for official visits to Israel and Ukraine. The press service of Estonia's Foreign Ministry says that on the way to Tel Aviv and back to Tallinn, on March 17, Meri is going to make one-day stopovers in Kiev.

Lennart Meri is planning to meet with the Israeli President, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Bilateral economic and political relations will be discussed.

In Kiev, Lennart Meri will be expected to meet with the Ukrainian President and Prime Minister, as well as with the chairman of the Ukrainian parliament. Cooperation in the fields of security, culture and economic relations will be discussed.

Foreign Minister Juri Luik, chairman Rein Helme of the parliamentary defense commission, Secretary of State Julo Kaevats and several business people are accompanying the Estonian President.

Visits Jerusalem, Meets Leaders

WS1403151494 Tallinn ETA in English 0835 GMT 14 Mar 94

[From 12 March RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, p 1; "News Bulletin" No. 49/94]

[Text] Monday, March 14—President Lennart Meri, Mrs. Meri, and a delegation including Foreign Minister Juri Luik, State Secretary Ulo Kaevats, Riigikogu [parliament] defence commission chairman Rein Helme and Foreign and Economy Ministries and the Presidential Chancellery representatives, as well as a number of business figures, left for a state visit to Israel and Ukraine on Sunday [13 March].

The delegation was received in Jerusalem by Israeli President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, parliament chairman Shevah Weiss, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and Israeli Ambassador to Estonia Tova Herzl.

President Weizman compared the way of Israel and Estonia towards independence. President Meri stressed the importance of peaceful settlement of problems.

President Meri met Prime Minister Rabin, Foreign Minister Peres and chairman of the "Likud" opposition party Benjamin Netanyahu. The discussions concerned the dynamic development of Estonian-Israeli relations after the concluding of diplomatic relations on January 9, 1992. An agreement on cultural, scientific and educational cooperation has been signed already and the agreement on promotion and protection of investments is to be signed during the current visit. Estonian-Russian relations and the troops withdrawal problems were also discussed.

The tour of the Estonian delegation is to continue in Ukraine. The delegation is to return late on Thursday.

Laar Agrees To Further Talks With Russia

LD1403112194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Mart Laar told the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE [BNS] that the next round of Estonian-Russian talks is scheduled for the beginning of April in Moscow. Russia has proposed to continue the interstate talks and evidently Estonia will accept this proposal, the Prime Minister said. Taking into account the latest statements from top Russian officials there is reason to sit down around a talks table again. If Russia also gives up the additional conditions set for the withdrawal of troops there is hope that quick progress will be made regarding agreements, Laar claimed to BNS.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on 11 March on his visit to Finland that Russia will withdraw its troops from Latvia and Estonia by the agreed deadline, 31 August 1994. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, too, has gone back on his previous statements and stated in Germany that Russia will honor the 31 August deadline for the troop withdrawal. Russia had previously stated that it does not view the troop withdrawal date as binding. Russian representatives have also claimed that they will take time out at Estonian-Russian talks.

Mart Laar sees Chernomyrdin's and Grachev's latest statements as positive. According to the [Estonian] prime minister, Estonia does not intend to make any changes in the delegation and will continue with the existing team. At the same time Mart Laar is convinced, as before, that it is necessary for the Estonian and Russian top officials to meet.

Wants Talks Solved at Higher Level

WS1103205194 Tallinn BNS in English 1654 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 11, BNS—The problems that cropped up in the course of the Russian-Estonian negotiations must be ironed out on a higher level than that of government delegations, Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar said today in an interview to BNS.

Laar emphasized that the talks between the two countries "have come to a deadlock" and "an impetus on a higher level than that of experts" is needed to break the deadlock.

"Lately Russia has shown no wish to withdraw its troops from our country," the Estonian premier said. "We confront a political problem which will have to be solved by the top leaders of both countries."

Laar voiced his hope that a meeting between the premiers or foreign ministers of the two countries will eventually take place, but he didn't consider it likely that the Estonian and the Russian presidents would meet any time soon.

The Estonian-Russian negotiations reached an impasse after Russia announced at the 17th round of talks at the beginning of March that it may reconsider the final deadline for the troop withdrawal and linked the pullout to the signing of an agreement on "social guarantees" for retired Russian military and a number of other issues. Estonia then declared it may break off the talks. The parties did not set the date for the next round of negotiations.

The Estonian Government proposed on March 4 that consultations on a higher level be held.

Laar stressed in the interview to BNS that "the ball is now in Russia's court" and that "Russia must show how serious its intentions are."

Meanwhile, Aleksandr Udaltsov, a high-ranking official at the Russian Foreign Ministry, in an interview to BNS on Wednesday [9 March] expressed doubt about the need to raise the level of negotiations, saying the government delegations of the two countries "haven't yet exhausted their potential."

Udaltsov proceeded to say that the two parties "don't see eye to eye in questions of principle, and consultations would only make sense if there were a sign of some give and take, but Russia has seen no such signs so far." The Russian diplomat voiced his opinion that "there's no point in meeting for the sake of meeting."

Laar regarded Udaltsov's statements as an indication that Russia's approach to talks with Estonia "isn't serious enough."

Italian Minister Visits; Meets President

WS1103121594 Tallinn ETA in English 0858 GMT 11 Mar 94

[From RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, March 11, p 1,3; "News Bulletin" No. 48]

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta arrived for a brief visit to Estonia yesterday. Italian Ambassador Carlo Siano explained that the foreign minister primarily represents Italy as the current chairman country of the CSCE. The discussions will mainly concern the Russian troops withdrawal and the situation of the ethnic minorities, he added.

The Italian Foreign Minister's meeting with Riigikogu [parliament] Speaker Ulo Nugis had to be canceled because of the delayed arrival of the minister. Beniamino Andreatta met President Lennart Meri, Prime Minister Mart Laar, Dmitriy Mikhaylov of the Russian Cultural Society and member of the Russian Assembly Aleksey Semyonov. He is to meet Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik today before leaving for Vilnius.

Dwells on Minorities Issue

WS1103205594 Tallinn ETA in English 1726 GMT 11 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Beniamino Andreatta, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, which holds CSCE presidency at present, told a press conference on Friday [11 March], that at his talks with Estonian leaders during his two-day visit to Estonia he discussed mainly the problems of minorities living in Estonia.

Andreatta said that the CSCE does not reproach Estonia as far as legislature regulating the problems of minorities living in Estonia is concerned, the application of this legislation is what causes problems. He stated that we should not as much talk of nationalities as of citizenship and expressed his opinion that all aliens living in Estonia should have a right to a residence permit and foreigners' passport.

Andreatta had also a meeting with Estonian President Lennart Meri last night where he said that the CSCE activities will in the future, as at present, be directed towards finding constructive solutions to problems of Estonian-Russian relations. Italy as a EU member state was interested in economic and political cooperation with Estonia, he added.

Meri's Visit to Italy Projected

WS1103144394 Tallinn BNS in English 1119 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 11, BNS—Estonian President Lennart Meri met Thursday [10 March] with Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta. The meeting was attended by Italian Ambassador to Estonia Carlo Siano and Timo Lahelma, head of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe mission to Estonia.

Andreatta informed Meri about his recent talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. He assured that CSCE will also hereafter strive for a constructive solution to the problems of Estonian-Russian relations.

Italy as a member of the European Union is interested in political and economic cooperation with Estonia, Andreatta said. Meri thanked Italy for its support for Estonia in its struggle for independence.

Meri affirmed that Estonia is prepared to continue negotiations with Russia also on the top level as soon as Russia indicates it is politically ready for this.

Arrangements for Meri's upcoming visit to Italy and the Vatican at the beginning of May were also discussed at the meeting, the presidential press service informs.

French Embassy Relays Statement on Withdrawal

WS1103121394 Tallinn ETA in English 0858 GMT 11 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 48]

[Text] French Embassy relayed the statement of the French Government Press Representative concerning the Russian refusal to withdraw the troops by August 31. The French Government representative hoped that the European Stability Conference in Paris on May 26-27 will contribute to the solving of the Russian-Estonian differences.

Transmission of Russian TV Programs Reduced

WS1103205394 Tallinn BNS in English 1654 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 11, BNS—The government ruled at its session yesterday to reduce as of today the transmission of Russian television company Ostankino's programs in Estonia.

The ruling is in effect from March 11 till 27. If the Ostankino company hasn't renegotiated its contract with Estonian Telecommunications or paid its debts by March 28, transmission of its programs will stop altogether.

Ostankino owes Estonian Telecommunications about 105,000 Deutsche marks for 1993 and another 80,000 marks for January transmissions.

Under the contract concluded between the Ostankino television company and Estonian Telecommunications, Ostankino itself pays for the transmission of its programs in Estonia.

Security Police Question Zhirinovskiy's Man

WS1103171394 Tallinn BNS in English 1326 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 11, BNS—Pyotr Rozhok, the Russian Liberal Democratic Party's representative in Estonia, was yesterday questioned by the Estonian Security Police.

Rozhok, who holds Russian citizenship, was accompanied by Russian Deputy Consul Valeri Chalovsky.

Rozhok told BNS that "nothing came of the talk with the police," since he demanded the services of a Moscow lawyer. The interrogation was attended by an Estonian lawyer, an interpreter, and Chalovsky.

The Security Police summoned Rozhok for another session of questioning on March 16.

Estonian authorities started on Feb. 4 investigating Rozhok under Article 72 of the Estonian Criminal Code for "inciting racial, national or religious hatred." If convicted, Rozhok faces a fine or up to a year in prison. Rozhok stated he will not have an Estonian lawyer and that he doesn't intend to pay for any lawyer's services. In an interview with BNS, he said in justification of his refusal, "You made the mess, you clear it up."

Holger Siigart, deputy director of the Security Police, told BNS investigation of Rozhok's case continues and that Rozhok is in any case obliged to turn up for questioning. Siigart said the problem of the lawyer will somehow be solved, but wouldn't say how exactly.

National Unity Request To Free Denisov Declined

LD1103203394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1920 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Estonia's Foreign Ministry will not consider the request of the Russian National Unity movement to free its compatriot Aleksandr Denisov, press secretary of the republic's Foreign Ministry Mari-Ann Rikken declared to Interfax on Friday.

As was reported earlier, Alexander Denisov was detained by Estonia's security police in the city of Johvi due to unauthorized possession of weapons and staying on Estonia's territory without appropriate documentation. On Friday leaders of the organization Russian National Unity appealed to the Estonian Embassy in Moscow to free Denisov and send him to Russia. Mari-Ann Rikken pointed out that as the question concerns a criminal case, the request had been handed over to the Interior Ministry.

Siigart Holger, deputy general director of the security police, reported that during the interrogation Denisov, who formerly lived in Estonia, declared that he fled from Russia because he was afraid of persecution for participation in the events of October 3-4 in Moscow. Estonia views Denisov as a criminal and a trial is now being prepared, said Siigart Holger.

Russian Nationalists Demand Release of Leader

WS1103205794 Tallinn BNS in English 1859 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, Mar 11, BNS—An ultranationalist Russian movement, Russia's National Unity, today petitioned the Estonian Embassy in Moscow for immediate release of Alexander Denisov, one of the movement's leaders. The petition also asked that Denisov be allowed to leave Estonia unhindered.

"The relations between the Estonian Government and the Russian nation in the near future depend on how Denisov's question is solved," Alexander Roshchitsky, the organization's spokesman, claimed.

Russia's National Unity maintains that the organization has a fellow feeling for Estonians and wants to develop friendly relations with this nation.

The organization claims the Russian people know Denisov as a "defender of the White House and of the Constitution" and regard him as a "national hero."

Denisov was detained on Feb. 15 in the northeast Estonian town of Johvi. He worked in the early 1980's in the Kohtla-Jarve police forces. In recent years Denisov fought for the so-called Transdniester Republic in Moldova and was one of former Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov's bodyguards.

Denisov arrived in Estonia illegally late in November. Estonian authorities so far have charged him only with illegal possession of firearms.

Russia's National Unity has often been named a fascist organization. It is led by Alexander Barkashov, and members of the organization's shock troops are known as "barkashovtsy". In October 1993 "barkashovtsy", whose emblem closely resembles the swastika, defended the White House in Moscow side by side with the hardliners.

First of NATO Standard Cartridges Expected Soon

WS1103210994 Tallinn BNS in English 1859 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 11, BNS—The first sample cartridges that conform to NATO standards are expected to come off the line at an Estonian factory next week, reliable sources informed BNS.

Defense Ministry press secretary Maige Proom neither confirmed nor denied the information.

The Defense Ministry and the Defense Forces general staff have for months held talks with several enterprises that are prepared to manufacture NATO standard 5.56 mm, 9 mm and 7.62 mm ammunition.

At least two Estonian companies, the Turi-based Arbalett joint-stock company, one of whose shareholders is the Defense League Foundation, and the Tartu-based state-owned Tarkon, have applied to the Defense Ministry to start production of cartridges.

Tarkon's director Toomas Noorem said in an earlier interview with BNS that his company is fully capable of and interested in producing cartridges.

Defense Minister Indrek Kannik was scheduled to visit the Tarkon plant today.

Defense Ministry Deputy Chancellor Tarmo Molder claimed in an interview with BNS that locally made cartridges would in any case be cheaper than, for example, ammunition imported from Israel.

Lieutenant Colonel Romas Zibas, head of the Lithuanian Defense Forces general staff's military training department, told BNS a couple of weeks ago that Lithuania is already producing its own cartridges and grenades. He said his country also plans in the near future to start manufacturing 60 mm and 80 mm mortars and shells. The Latvian Defense Ministry invited bids from domestic manufacturers to start producing ammunition locally.

Committees Unite To Protect Radiation Victims

WS1103121794 Tallinn ETA in English 1025 GMT 11 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian residents who have been exposed to radiation and representatives of the Estonian National Rescue Board passed a decision to unite at a meeting of the Estonian Chernobyl Committee on Thursday [10 March].

The committee unites people who were sent to clean up the areas polluted by the catastrophe at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in Ukraine in 1986 when Estonia was still part of the Soviet Union.

The meeting stated that noone could be sent to dangerous areas without guarantees with a specific reference to nuclear training reactors at former Soviet submarine training base, Paldiski, in northwest Estonia that will be dismantled soon.

Victims of Chernobyl lack social guarantees in Estonia as tax reductions were abolished by the new Income Tax Law and new reductions have not been drafted, the meeting stated.

Radiation victims in Estonia also include people who have been to nuclear sites on Novaya Zemlya and other places and also members of the Rescue Board.

Latvia

Minister Meets U.S. Ambassador in Riga

WS1103144594 Riga DIENA in Latvian 5 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Agita Berzina: "U.S. Policy Toward Latvia Has Not Changed"]

[Text] Riga, 5 Mar—Today, Minister of Foreign Affairs Georgs Andrejevs met with Ints Silins, the Ambassador of the United States to Latvia, to express his incomprehension regarding U.S. State Secretary Christopher Warren's statement at the session of the Senate's subcommittee on 2 March, the Foreign Affairs Ministry press service announced. As DIENA already reported, W. Christopher had pointed out in his statement that, in his opinion, Russia can undertake activities aimed "at stimulating Latvians" in the direction of broadening the circle of citizens and granting voting rights to the Russians residing in Latvia. During today's conversation, G. Andrejevs expressed his incomprehension and anxiety over such utterances from a high-level American official. In his reply, I. Silins explained that they refer entirely to the inhabitants of Latvia who are Russians by nationality. He also said that Mr. Christopher meant for lawful and democratic methods to be used by Latvia's Russians in persuading Latvians to take their interests into account.

Summarizing, I. Silins emphasized that the principal policy of the United States toward Latvia has not changed.

Andrejevs Signs Cooperation Pact With Hungary

WS1403121894 Tallinn BNS in English 1759 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 12, BNS—The Foreign Ministries of Latvia and Hungary concluded a bilateral cooperation accord during the visit of Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs to Hungary this week.

The agreement provides for mutual consultations aimed at encouraging coordinated actions in international organizations, Andrejevs told reporters Saturday [12 March] at a press briefing in the Riga airport.

Andrejevs also handed over to the Hungarian leadership draft agreements on investment protection and avoidance of double taxation. Latvia has also prepared a draft agreement on legal cooperation, Andrejevs noted.

The minister, however, questioned the efficiency of implementation of agreements on trade and air communication.

During his Hungarian trip, Andrejevs met with President Arpad Goenz and Foreign Minister Geza Jeszensky.

Rent on Skrunda May Be Fixed During Summit

WS1403153394 Tallinn BNS in English 1102 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 14, BNS—The presidents of Latvia and Russia could fix the amount of rent for the former Soviet military radar at Skrunda in Latvia at a bilateral meeting, Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs told reporters Saturday [12 March].

The state delegations for withdrawal talks voiced the probability during mutual consultations, Andrejevs noted. The next round of talks is scheduled to open Monday in Moscow.

As reported, Russia offered Latvia 2 million USD per each year of the operation of the radar after the troop withdrawal is completed. The Latvian counterproposal was 400 million U.S. dollars per year.

Chief Russian negotiator Sergei Zotov has no authority to alter the Russian proposal but Latvia also cannot make that large concessions, said Andrejevs.

In addition, Andrejevs said that Russia has drafted a timetable for the withdrawal of troops from the Baltic country.

The command of Russia's Northwest Army group only needs a signed interstate agreement to start implementation of the timetable, Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Rannikh has told Andrejevs.

The issue of social guarantees for Russian military pensioners could be tackled jointly with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe experts if the delegations fail to reach an agreement by themselves, the minister said.

As reported, Russia has promised to withdraw the remaining troops by Aug. 31 if Latvia allows it keep the radar station for five and a half years.

No Agreement on Baltic Free Trade

LD1303173594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 13 Mar 94

[Text] No unanimous agreement on free trade in agro-industrial produce has been reached by the negotiating parties at a consultative meeting held in Riga yesterday by the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian ministers of agriculture. Perhaps this will be achieved next time when the ministers meet again in Tallinn.

Talking about the results of the meeting, Latvian Minister of Agriculture Janis Kinna, Lithuanian Minister of Agriculture Rimantas Karazija, and Estonian Minister of Agriculture Jaan Leestar described the consultations as important because information was been exchanged and the positions of the parties were clarified.

During the discussion on (?establishing links) with the European Union and joining the economic organizations of this region, unanimous agreement was achieved by the agriculture ministers of the Baltic states, the Latvian News Agency reported.

Air Transport Agreement With Estonia Initialled

LD1103203494 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Today, at the Latvian Transport Ministry a treaty between Latvia and Estonia on cooperation in the air transport sphere was initialled; a cooperation protocol was also signed between the Estonian and Latvian civil aviation administrations. This is the first document of its kind on cooperation in the air transport sphere in the Baltic countries. The signing of the treaty may take place in the near future. It provides for establishing permanent flights, Riga-Tallinn and Tallinn-Riga, to be conducted by both the Latvian and Estonian airlines. Let us add that hitherto there has been no permanent air link between Latvia and Estonia. The protocol that was signed also provides for developing cooperation in exchanging information, personnel training, and working out a joint program of qualifications for staff.

Government Considers Arms Purchase From Israel

WS1103171694 Riga DIENA in Latvian 4 Mar 94 p 8

[Article by Liga Laizane: "Government Needs Half a Year to Consider Purchase of Arms"]

[Text] Riga, 3 Mar—To make a decision about when, what and how many arms to purchase, the government needs at least half a year, said the Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs today. "This month, we have found ourselves in a new situation, when many countries, such as Poland, the United States, Great Britain, Sweden, and the Czech Republic, expressed their readiness to sell us arms. Of course it is in the interests of the government to resolve this matter sooner," said the prime minister at a press conference, at which government representatives were reporting on their visit to Israel.

The main condition for the arms purchase from Israel would be a proposal of a long-term (at least 12 years) credit. V. Birkavs did not want to mention a specific sum and percentage for the credit, but, due to his estimations, the sum would not surpass half the Estonian credit. As DIENA already reported, it is $56 million, therefore the Latvian credit would amount to no more than $28 million.

According to V. Birkavs, Latvia is interested in antitank weapons, communication equipment for the police, and border control systems. The Minister of Home Affairs, Girts Pavlovskis, and the Commander of the Defense Forces, Dainis Turlais, have visited a few factories manufacturing arms. G. Kristovskis said that he was quite impressed.

On Monday [7 March], a meeting of the leaders of the three Baltic states and the Nordic states will take place in Stockholm. V. Birkavs will consult with Mart Laar and Adolf Slezevicius on the common Baltic borders protection system with modern technology, and also problems of border security will be discussed. "And yet, this is not only a problem of security, but also of advantage," said V. Birkavs. The cost of the technical equipment could be considerably lower, if it would be purchased in larger quantity. All Baltic states have the common goal of joining NATO, therefore it would be convenient to buy similar arms and border protection systems, he pointed out.

Papers Cannot Be Charged for Naming Russians

WS1103144494 Tallinn BNS in English 1119 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 11, BNS—Latvian Prosecutor's Office cannot bring charges against newspapers that published names and addresses of Russian military persons because the actions cannot be regarded a criminal offense, Rita Aksenoka, an aide to the prosecutor general, told BNS.

Aksenoka's explanations followed to a note from the Russian Embassy in Riga to the Latvian Foreign Ministry. The note said the publications in the national radical ATMATA and PAVALSTNIEKS papers endanger the mentioned servicemen and complicate relations between Latvia and Russia.

The note describes as provocative headlines "They are Occupants" and "Under their Feet the Land Moans" and says Russian diplomats hope that Latvian authorities will take legal steps to prevent further incidents.

The Prosecutor's Office, however, can only bring charges for misinformation. So far, it has received no claims that the published information was not true, said Deputy Prosecutor General Edvins Ziedins.

If there is enough evidence to prove that the publications called for violence, the papers may face adequate charges with a prospect of being closed, said Aksenoka.

Gas Enterprise Unable To Repay Debt on Time

WS1103211094 Tallinn BNS in English 1859 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 11, BNS—The Latvijas Gaze (Latvian Gas) statestock company is unable to pay its 23-million-U.S. dollar debt to Russia's Gazprom by April 1.

The repayment deadline is included in the March 5 contract between Latvijas Gaze and Gazprom on Russian gas supplies to Latvia in 1994.

The enterprise will not be able to pay the debt on time because a World Bank credit may be delayed.

As reported, the Latvian Government allowed Latvijas Gaze to use the Japanese Import-Export Bank's credit, part of a G-24 credit to Latvia, to fulfill its obligations to Gazprom.

The debt of the CIS and the Baltic states to Gazprom in 1993 constituted 4 billion U.S. dollars.

On the other hand, consumers owe Latvijas Gaze 44 million U.S. dollars. The largest debtors are Latvenergo (Ls 11,000) and Sloka papermill (Ls 3,200).

Latvijas Gaze sued more than 80 enterprises to the Economic Court. The court has ruled in all cases in favor of Latvijas Gaze but the debtors fail to fulfill the court rulings.

Ministry Prepares Plan

WS1403120194 Tallinn BNS in English 1335 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 12, BNS—The Latvian Economics Ministry has prepared a draft resolution to speed up the payment of debts to the Latvijas Gaze (Latvian Gas) state-stock company.

The debt of gas consumers presently totals 40 million lats.

Under the draft resolution, industrial consumers may face a 50-percent cut in gas supplies if they fail to release or reduce the debt in two weeks.

In case the repayment is delayed, the debtor is warned and if that does not work, the gas supply is suspended.

The ministry also plans to ask the Finance Ministry grant sales tax waivers to heating enterprises which provide heating for apartment houses.

The resolution is coordinated with the Finance Ministry and the Justice Ministry. The State Reforms Ministry has not revealed its viewpoint yet.

Director Outlines Future Prospects

WS1403120494 Tallinn BNS in English 1335 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 12, BNS—Natural gas will cost 77.5 U.S. dollars per 1,000 cubic meters this year, according to the gas supply contract between the Latvijas Gaze (Latvian Gas) and Russia's Gazprom gas consortiums.

In Lithuania and Estonia gas prices are lower than in Latvia because the two have agreed to form joint ventures with Gazprom, Latvijas Gaze Director Adrians Davis told reporters Friday [11 March]. Latvijas Gaze has, so far, created no mergers with any other countries.

Latvijas Gaze and Gazprom leadership concluded a contract March 5 on gas supplies to Latvia in 1994 and discussed a long-term contract that could regulate gas supplies for 10 or 15 years.

The long-term contract could be signed at the end of the year because its preparation requires much work, Davis said. If it is signed, Latvia will be able to plan its economy more effectively.

Davis said that the underground gas container at Incukalns was a strategically important energetics object as the security guarantor of the country's gas provision.

Latvia could start earning on the container in two years in anticipation of soaring gas consumption in Europe because of the planned closure of many coal mines. The container could be used to store gas before it is sent Europe, Davis said.

The Baltics themselves are able to pump Russian gas directly in view of the reduction of consumption from 10 billion cubic meters in 1991 to 4 billion cubic meters in 1993.

Currently, Gazprom stands the sole gas supplier to Latvia but the Baltic country also contemplates a chance to buy Norwegian gas, Davis noted.

Commenting on gas purchases from Turkmenistan where it costs 51 dollar for 1,000 cubic meters, Davis said the transportation expenses would increase the price to around 100 dollars for 1,000 cubic meters. This is the main reason why Turkmenistan cannot enter into the European market which is dominated by Russia and Norway.

Decision Annulled on Police Special Rights

WS1103135294 Riga LETA in English 1310 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] RIGA, March 11 (LETA)—The cabinet passed regulations on additional powers of the state police and the national volunteer guards, allowing them to carry out checks on vehicles drivers and passengers on grounded suspicion. The legal commissions of the Saeima [parliament] at the plenary session Thursday [10 March] recommended to annul the regulations as not conforming to the norms of the code of criminal procedure and administrative offense code.

The deputies decided the regulations by the cabinet are no longer valid.

New Russian Branch To 'Popularize' Latvian Views

PM1103172994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 94 p 3

[Irina Litvinova (Riga) report: "Latvia Can 'Quickly Refute Russia's Unfair Accusations'"]

[Text] The founders of the open public "Baltic Information Agency" foundation have decided to open a branch in Russia.

According to Gunars Meierovics, Latvian Foreign Ministry minister of state for the affairs of the Baltic and Nordic countries and a Saeima deputy, the creation of this foundation will provide an opportunity to popularize Latvia's opinion on political questions and "refute pretty quickly various unfair accusations on Russia's part."

Rally Protests Russian Control of Skrunda

WS1403121594 Tallinn BNS in English 1800 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 12, BNS—The Latvian Popular Front and the Homeland and Freedom association staged a rally Saturday [12 March] at the Doms square in Riga protesting against the temporary operation of the former Soviet military radar installation at Skrunda.

The round of Latvian-Russian interstate talks, scheduled for March 14, can turn out to be the last meeting on troop withdrawal, speakers said.

The delegations are expected to sign an interstate treaty according to which Russia withdraws its troops from Latvia by Aug. 31 but Latvia allows it control the Skrunda radar for five and a half years.

The Popular Front has sent the government several resolutions urging to not to agree with Russia on such conditions. The front's stance is shared by all nationally-oriented political organizations, said its Deputy Chairman Juris Kokins.

Kokins described the rally as the last means that his organization uses to attain quicker dismantling of the radar station.

In the opinion of the front's specialists, Russia needs the radar not as a technical installation but as a military base where it could keep its troops and what could be used for various political purposes, Kokins said.

The existence of a like military base on the Latvian soil is unacceptable to the international public opinion. In accordance with U.N. resolutions, Russia must get its troops out of Latvia speedily, orderly and completely.

Kokins conceded that the rally could serve to raise the front's political prestige what is important in view of the coming local government elections. The front, however, does not cherish great hopes for successful performance in the election, Kokins said.

The rally was attended by around 1,000 people holding slogans, like "Russia—the World's Greatest Racketeer—Wants to Abduct Latvia" and "Skrunda is Occupation Military Base."

Democratic Labor Party Congress Approves Program

WS1403120594 Tallinn BNS in English 1759 GMT 12 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 12, BNS—The Latvian Democratic Labor Party in principle approved its new program during the party congress Saturday [12 March] in Riga.

The program sets the party's stance on the development of economy, education, culture, science and human rights but still lacks paragraphs on environmental protection and sports, said party Chairman Juris Bojars.

The party endorses a 10-year residence qualification as essential for naturalization until Russia completes the withdrawal of its troops from Latvia and the demographic situation stabilizes. When the two conditions are fulfilled, the residence qualification could be reduced to five years.

In economy, the party warns of excessive trading of Latvia's property and industrial potential to foreign entrepreneurs. In foreign politics, it will seek partners among the world's leftist parties.

Lithuania

Italy's Andreatta Signs Cooperation Agreements

LD1103224394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 11 Mar 94

[Text] The Italian foreign minister and chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Professor Beniamino Andreatta, paid a one-day visit to Lithuania on Friday. Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and the Italian foreign minister signed the first Lithuanian/Italian agreement on cooperation in the spheres of economy, production, and technology. The agreement is valid for a term of 10 years. The delegation led by the Italian foreign minister was received by President Algirdas Brazauskas.

At the meeting, Professor Benjamin Andreatta said that Western states expected Lithuania's contribution to easing tension between Russia and the Baltic states of Latvia and Estonia. As to the possibilities of Lithuania's integration into the European Union, the Italian minister said that if Lithuania maintained good relations with Russia it could expect Italy's support in seeking a free trade agreement with the European Union and an associated membership in that organization. Bilateral Lithuanian/Italian relations, as well as those with neighboring countries, were discussed in greater detail at a roundtable talk with members of the Lithuanian Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee and deputy foreign ministers.

Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta also had a meeting with Chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament, Ceslovas Jursenas.

Military Cooperation Agreement Signed With Denmark

WS1403120894 Vilnius ELTA in English 1938 GMT 11 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 455]

[Text] Vilnius, March 11, ELTA—A Lithuanian-Danish agreement on military co-operation was signed on Friday [11 March] which was evaluated by Lithuanian National defence minister Linas Linkevicius as one more step towards the structures of NATO.

The agreement was signed between Linkevicius and his Danish counterpart Hans Haekkerup who was on visit in the Baltic state.

With the help of Denmark which is a member of NATO, Lithuania is going to create and develop its armed forces and voluntary service of national defence, to train servicemen, to make up a peacekeeping corps.

Linkevicius said Denmark was participating most actively in forming units of "blue helmets". A company of Lithuanian soldiers has already been trained in Denmark, another one is due to leave in the nearest days. In August, Lithuanian peacekeeping contingent is going to go to Croatia together with Danish battalion.

No doubt, the agreement pushes Lithuania nearer to the Western Europe, Haekkerup said. Denmark is taking part in preparations of a programme introducing Lithuania to NATO, joint exercises of military units of both states are planned. Late in January, Lithuania became the second state after Romania to sign a NATO initiative "Partnership for peace".

In March 18, representatives of Scandinavia, Germany, Britain, the U.S. and the three Baltic states are going to meet in Copenhagen and consider assistance to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia creating their own peacekeeping forces. A joint battalion of the three countries is planned to set up with its training centre in Lithuanian southern city Alytus, in a former military basis of Russian paratroopers.

Riflemen's Union Chief on Goals, Dependence

WS1003110094 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 4 Mar 94 No. 43 p 6

[Interview with Rimvydas Mintautas, chairman of the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union, by Ona Mickeviciute; place and date not given: "The Lithuanian Riflemen's Union Would Like To Be Independent"—questions published in boldface]

[Excerpts] [Mickeviciute]**Recently, the press has reported extensively on the Volunteer National Defense Service [SKAT], while the Riflemen's Union has remained in the shadows. Are your modest activities or the evasion of publicity responsible for this?**

[Mintautas] Yes, the press has devoted too little attention to us. I think this is because we are not a state-run organization, like the national defense system or SKAT. As any family, however, we also have some naughty children, but we do not have such problems as the military or volunteers.

[Mickeviciute] **What are your union's relations with military and volunteer organizations?**

[Mintautas] Our ties with the national defense system have never been ideal. They have been this way since the time when Mr. Butkevicius became head the National Defense Department.

The National Defense Ministry [KAM] has long been persuading us to join it. However, our principle is to be independent. True, I do not envision riflemen without firearms, and an armed organization should be subject to some structure. No government would like to have independent armed men. However, we do not want to engage only in marching and playing brass nicely.

Moreover, the national defense system has many people whom the riflemen do not trust. These are former high-ranking Soviet Army officers. We have met with them and we know what they are like.

Our cooperation with the SKAT is traditional and sincere, because the latter actually originated from the Riflemen's Union.

Having regained some of their prewar facilities, the riflemen are sharing them with SKAT and using its training bases. [passage omitted]

[Mickeviciute]**What was your attitude toward the volunteer mutiny headed by Maskvytis in the woods near Kaunas?**

[Mintautas] We did not make any statements during that mutiny. We thought later that we could have assumed a conciliatory function.

[Mickeviciute]**The community thinks that the Riflemen's Union is in opposition to the elected government. Is this opinion grounded? If there is any confrontation, what are its reasons, and how can they be removed?**

[Mintautas] I expected such a question. The members of our organization are really dissatisfied with the current Seimas [parliament] majority. This is natural, because most of us come from the other side of the barricades. The Riflemen's Union supported, supports, and will support Lithuania's right-wing forces. However, this should not evoke any dangerous confrontation. I have always claimed that the Lithuanian Government was not brought on tanks from Warsaw, Moscow, or Berlin, and we must get on with it. There are no reasons that should be removed. However, we are unlikely to have good contacts with the current authorities.

One cannot shout in a silly manner that everything is bad. For example, a good resolution allowing citizens to keep firearms has already been adopted, which is particularly important to us, the riflemen. [passage omitted]

[Mickeviciute]**What problems do you have?**

[Mintautas] We appealed to all our governments for some guarantees. Our members offered their services in guarding the Russian Army while it was here. We would like to contribute to the enforcement of public order, but the police do not want such support. They do not want to grant us even such powers as civilian militia supporters used to have.

The police do not forbid us from assisting them, but we ourselves will be responsible for the consequences.

We have knocked on many doors concerning these and other similar issues. We have received replies from the ministers of national defense and justice, saying that our request for arms and guarantees should make us subordinate to the KAM or the Interior Ministry. There have been suggestions to draft a new statute because the old one was registered by Mrs. K. Prunskiene [first prime minister of independent Lithuania]. The current draft statute was prepared very quickly, indicating that the Riflemen's Union operates under the KAM. It was presented back in December to Defense Minister L. Linkevicius, who replied that he would like to meet and talk with us.

After we draft the new statute, we will hold a congress and decide whether to remain with the KAM or remain independent.

We have received a proposal to become a police reserve, but this would mean the end of such organization as the Riflemen's Union.... Our people would not like this.... [passage omitted]

[Mickeviciute]**Tell us briefly about the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union. What are the number and age of your members? What are your rules of admission?**

[Mintautas] The union has about 7,000 members, including a small number of former professional USSR officers. We have 15 divisions comprising 150 territorial units. We do not admit former communists to our union. We had not had such a principle before we adopted it at our first congress in 1990. Some of former Communist Party members became our members, took an oath of allegiance, and are now in the ranks of our union. Such was former SKAT chief Colonel J. Gecas.

The Riflemen's Union also operates among Lithuanian emigres, and we maintain good contacts with them. Actually we live on financial support from riflemen emigres.

Young people between 30 and 35, mostly workers, account for almost 40 percent of our members. We would also like to attract intellectuals to our ranks.

Women also belong to our organization, but their number in different divisions is uneven: Kaunas and Utena divisions have 30 females each, while Vilnius—only 10.

Our divisions are rather autonomous. Each division commander is a member of the union's Executive Council.

[Mickeviciute] **What are your immediate plans?**

[Mintautas] First of all, I will meet with the national defense minister. Many issues must be discussed and made clear. We do not intend to ask for a single cent from the KAM budget. I do not know why the press reported so. [passage omitted]

Ministry Reports Most Crimes Committed by Minors

WS1403121194 Vilnius ELTA in English 1938 GMT 11 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 455]

[Text] Vilnius, March 11, ELTA—Two thirds of all the crimes in Lithuania are committed by persons until 29 year-old and the majority of them are minors, Interior ministry told ELTA [sentence as received].

Mostly, children without business commit crimes—who do not attend school, have no parents or one of them, also children of unemployed people.

Major part of crimes are made in places attended by young people - hostels, cafes, discotheques, in cities of Vilnius and Klaipeda, regions of Kupiskis, Anvksciai, Moletai. Four fifths of youth crimes are thefts of property. The rest part is murders and rapes.

Age of criminals is diminishing. In 1990, the youngest criminals were of 12-13 years, in 1993—nine-year-olds. About a half crimes are committed by youngsters abusing various intoxicants.